THE NEW
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Bumrah's fifer helps India restrict Eng to 465

Jasprit Bumrah completed a five-wicket haul to ensure a slender six-run first-innings lead for India, who bowled out England for 465 in an extended afternoon session on day three of the first Test in Leeds on Sunday. Before Bumrah castled Josh Tongue to end England innings, Chris Woakes (38 off 55) punished the Indian pace attack to take his team close to India's 471. At the time of going to press, India were 87 for 2. | P13

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BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invite tenders in Two Stage Tender System from Eligible Contractors for the below mentioned works.

Office of The Chief Engineer (WWM-West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Amount Put to Tender EMD
No. BWSSB/CE(WWM-W)/ACE(WWM-N-W)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-2/515/2025-26 Date: 21.06.2025		
1	Providing and Laying 1400mm dia RCC NP-3 sewer pipe line from Saraswathi Vidyanikethan School, Jai Maruthinagar to 6th A main, JC Nagar, Kurubarahalli (near Sandeep bar) inside SWD-V202 further linked to Mailasandra STP.(3rd Call)	Rs. 362.65 Lakhs / Rs. 5.44 Lakhs
For the above works Last date and time for Receipt of tenders will be on **22.07.2025 upto 17.30 hrs**. The bids will be opened on: **23.07.2025 at 11.00 hrs**.		
No. BWSSB/CE(WWM-W)/ACE(WWM-STP-W)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-2/517/2025-26 Date: 21.06.2025		
2	Works of Including Implementation of Coarse Screen & UF1 MLD at 40 MLD Rajacanal Phase II UWTP under JHA Funds coming under AEE(WW M-STP-H&A.V-1) sub division.(2nd Call)	Rs. 387.70 Lakhs / Rs. 5.81 Lakhs
No. BWSSB/CE(WWM-W)/ACE(WWM-STP-W)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-2/519/2025-26 Date: 21.06.2025		
3	Improvement work Installation, Supply & Commissioning of Odour Control Unit (OCU) at Hebbal 100 MLD UWTP coming under AEE(WWM-STP-H&A.1) sub division.(2nd Call).	Rs. 403.44 Lakhs / Rs. 6.05 Lakhs
For the above works Last date and time for Receipt of tenders will be on **07.07.2025 upto 16.00 hrs**. The bids will be opened on: **08.07.2025 at 17.00 hrs**.		
No. BWSSB/CE(WWM-W)/ACE(WWM-P-W)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-2/521/2025-26 Date: 21.06.2025		
4	Providing & Laying House Service Connection and Various dia Missing Damaged /pipelines in Hesaraghatta Village to supply sewage to 3 MLD Hesaraghatta coming under AEE(WWM-P-H&A.V)-1 sub division	Rs. 240.96 Lakhs / Rs. 3.62 Lakhs
For the above works Last date and time for Receipt of tenders will be on **22.07.2025 upto 17.00 hrs**. The bids will be opened on: **23.07.2025 at 17.30 hrs**.		

Sd/- Chief Engineer (WWM-West)

The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the below signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/1397/Zen/2025-26

AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED

(CIN:L65922RJ2011PLC034297) **Regd. & Corp. Office: 201-202, 2nd Floor, South End Square, Mansarovar Industrial Area, Jaipur. 302020**

SAPNE AAPKE, SAATH HAMAARA

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred upon me under section 13(12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice calling upon the borrowers mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on me under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said rules on the dates mentioned as below.
The borrower andGuarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED** for an amount mentioned as below and further interest thereon.

Name of the Borrower	Date & Amount of Demand Notice	Description of Property	Date & Type of Possession
K B SULOCHANA, SANTHOSH M G (A/C NO.) LNTKR17623-240299559	9 APR 25 Rs. 560774/- 7 APR 25	BEARING PROPERTY NO.34 AND E KHATHA NO. 152500202100200038 SITUATED AT B KODIHALLI VILLAGE KASABA HOBLI, GUBBI TALUKA,DIST- TUMKUR, BELAVETHA GRAM PANCHYAT KARNATAKA **ADMEASURING MEASURING EAST TO WEST 17.9832 METERS AND NORTH TO SOUTH 5.7912 METER**	SYMBOLIC POSSESSION TAKEN ON 19 JUN 25
KAVITHA T, GIRISHA C A (A/C NO.) LNHSS17423-240301152	9 APR 25 Rs. 532601/- 7 APR 25	ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE HOUSE BEARING PROPERTY NO.78/88/1 AND E-KATHA NO.151600603800700128 SITUATED AT CHIKKAMENAHALLI VILLAGE, DUDDA HOBLI, HASSAN TALUK, HASSAN DISTRICT, UNDER THE LIMIT OF HONNAVARA GRAMAPANCHAYATH, KARNATAKA **ADMEASURING MEASURING EAST TO WEST: 12.192 METERS, AND NORTH TO SOUTH:9.144 METERS,**	SYMBOLIC POSSESSION TAKEN ON 20 JUN 25
M R JAGANNATH, SANTHOSH M J, BHARATHI M K (A/C NO.) LNTKR17623-240331057	9 APR 25 Rs. 1682857/- 7 APR 25	ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE HOUSE BEARING KATHA NO.1894/5, E-KATHA NO.152500904100302533 AND SITE NO.5, SITUATED AT HEGGERE VILLAGE, KASABA HOBLI, TUMKUR TALUK, TUMKUR DISTRICT UNDER THE LIMIT OF HEGGERE GRAMAPANCHAYATHI KARNATAKA **ADMEASURING EAST TO WEST: 40 FEET AND NORTH TO SOUTH: 30 FEET**	SYMBOLIC POSSESSION TAKEN ON 19 JUN 25
K GANGADHAR, MANGALA MANGALA, MANASA T G, VARUN T G (A/C NO.) LNTIP17623-240321057	9 APR 25 Rs. 821366/- 7 APR 25	ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE PROPERTY BEARING KATHA NO.4522/69/26 AND PROPERTY NO.34-133-17/27D , SITUATED AT WARD NO.4, DEVEGOWDA EXTENSION, TURUVEKERE TOWN, TUMKUR DISTRICT, UNDER THE LIMIT OF TURUVEKERE TOWN MUNICIPALITY KARNATAKA **ADMEASURING MEASURING EAST TO WEST: 9.144 METERS AND NORTH TO SOUTH: 6.096 METERS TOTALLY SITE-55.741 & TOTALLY BUILDING 42.642 METERS**	SYMBOLIC POSSESSION TAKEN ON 19 JUN 25
RAJESH N, ANITHA ANITHA (A/C NO.) LNCBP17423-240334619	9 APR 25 Rs. 643244/- 7 APR 25	ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY BEARING E-SWATHU FORM NO.3, E-SWATHU NO.38-507-318,NIRDHARANA NO.1842/23A,IN SITUATED AT TIPPUNAGARA,BAGEPALLI TOWN AND TALUK, CHIKKABALLAPURA DISTRICT, KARNATAKA **ADMEASURING METERS, NORTH TO SOUTH 7.620015 METERS,TOTAL MEASURING 92.903 SQ METERS, BUILIDING PLINTH AREA 55 SQUARE METERS,**	SYMBOLIC POSSESSION TAKEN ON 20 JUN 25
RADHAMMA RADHAMMA, RAMAIAH RAMAIAH (A/C NO.) LNTIP17723-240332052	9 APR 25 Rs. 636999/- 7 APR 25	ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE PROPERTY BEARING KATHA NO.95 AND E-KATHA NO.152500801401820217 SITUATED AT HIREBIDARE VILLAGE, KASABA HOBLI, TIPTUR TALUK, TUMKUR DISTRICT, UNDER THE LIMIT OF MATHIHALLI GRAMAPANCHAYATHI KARNATAKA **ADMEASURING MEASURING EAST TO WEST: 13.1064 METERS AND NORTH TO SOUTH: 9.144 METERS, TOTALLY SITE-159.79 MTR**	SYMBOLIC POSSESSION TAKEN ON 19 JUN 25

Place : Jaipur **Date: 23-06-2025** **Authorised Officer Aavas Financiers Limited**

Institute of Gastroenterology Sciences and Organ Transplant

(An Autonomous Institute of Govt. of Karnataka) (Reg.No.DRB-2/SOR/54/2017-18)
Old School of Nursing Building, Victoria Hospital Campus, Bengaluru-560002. Ph:080-26707727 e-Mail:igotinstitute@gmail.com

No : IGOT/TND/24/2025-26 Date : 21.06.2025

ABSTRACT E-TENDER NOTIFICATION (THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL)

Tender Inviting Authority of Institute of Gastroenterology Sciences and Organ Transplant, invites e-Tender for the following Drugs, Equipment's and Services from the eligible tenderers through e-Procurement portal (Two cover system) of Government of Karnataka.

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Description	Tender can be downloaded from	Last Date of Submission of Tender	Date of Pre-Bid	Date of Technical Bid Open
1	IGOT/TND/ME/ETO/11/2025-26	ETO Machine	23.06.2025 from 5.30 P.M. Onwards	09.07.2025 at 4.00 P.M.	27.06.2025 at 11.30 A.M.	11.07.2025 at 11.30 A.M.
2	IGOT/TND/ME/LAP/12/2025-26	Laparoscopic CUSA				
3	IGOT/TND/ME/EHL/13/2025-26	EHL Machine for Spyglass				
4	IGOT/TND/ME/LHI/14/2025-26	Laparoscopic Hand Instruments				
5	IGOT/TND/ME/C-Arm/ 15/2025-26	C-Arm Machine				
6	IGOT/TND/ME/LASER/16/2025-26	Laser Machine for Proctology with Accessories Bundles				
7	IGOT/TND/ME/VAS/18/2025-26	Vascular Instruments				
8	IGOT/TND/ME/HRU/17/2025-26	High Resolution Ultrasound Equipment	23.06.2025 from 5.30 P.M. Onwards	22.07.2025 at 4.00 P.M.	04.07.2025 at 11.30 A.M.	24.07.2025 at 11.30 A.M.
9	IGOT/TND/DR1/01 /2025-26	Drugs – List 1 (I.V Fluids)	27.06.2025 from 5.30 P.M. Onwards	14.07.2025 at 4.00 P.M.	04.07.2025 at 11.30 A.M.	16.07.2025 at 11.30 A.M.
10	IGOT/TND/DR2/02/2025-26	Drugs – List 2 (Injections and Tablets)				
11	IGOT/TND/DM1/03/2025-26	Disposable and Misc. items – List 1				
12	IGOT/TND/DM2/04/2025-26	Disposable and Misc. items– List 2				
13	IGOT/TND/END/05/2025-26	Endoscopy Accessories				
14	IGOT/TND/LTX/06/2025-26	Liver Transplant Items				
15	IGOT/TND/SUT/07/2025-26	Surgical Sutures				
16	IGOT/TND/LIN/10/2025-26	Linen Services				
17	IGOT/TND/CPRT/09/2025-26	CPRT Services	27.06.2025 from 5.30 P.M. Onwards	28.07.2025 at 4.00 P.M.	07.07.2025 at 11.30 A.M.	30.07.2025 at 11.30 A.M.
18	IGOT/TND/IR1/08/2025-26	Interventional Radiology - List 1	30.06.2025 from 5.30 P.M. Onwards	15.07.2025 at 4.00 P.M.	07.07.2025 at 11.30 A.M.	17.07.2025 at 11.30 A.M.
19	IGOT/TND/IR2/19/2025-26	Interventional Radiology - List 2				

The tenderers should submit tenders through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Any further amendments can be seen in the e-Portal only.

Sd/- Chairman, Tender Inviting Committee, IGOT, Bengaluru-02

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule Property from its owners namely, **(i)Smt.V.Kuppamma**, D/o late.P.Venkatesh, residing at No.585, 21st Main, 4th 'T' Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore – 560 041 and **(ii)Smt.V.Sulochana**, D/o late.P.Venkatesh, residing No.538, 20th Main, 4th 'T' Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore – 560 041.

Apart from the said owners, if any other person/s have any manner of right, title, interest or claim or demand over the Schedule property or any part thereof by way of sale, lease, mortgage, gift, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, pre-emption or otherwise howsoever, they are hereby requested to file their objection/s (along with the photocopies of the documents on which they are relying), with the undersigned within **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Municipal No.18 (Old No.14), PID No.48-82-18, New E-PID No.4548882513, measuring East to West 45 ft. and North to South on the Eastern Side 73 ft. and on the Western Side 66 ft., in all measuring 3127.5 Sq.ft, together with a building thereon, comprising of ground plus two upper floors, situated at 2nd Cross, Lalbagh Main Road, S.G.Narayan Layout, Bangalore – 560027, within the administrative jurisdiction of BBMP Ward No.118 (Sudhamanagar Ward), and bounded on:

East by : Road,
West by : Site/Property No.15,
North by : Road,
South by : Property belonging to M/s.N.Muniswami & Sons.

Sd/- **S.F. GOUTAM CHAND**, Advocate,
GOUTAM ASSOCIATES,
No.60, 2nd Floor, Old Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bengaluru - 560004

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, MEGA LIFT, BHUBANESWAR

Plot no. A 8/2, Bhoinagar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, PIN-751022
E-Mail: cemlpwr.od@gmail.com
Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. 04ML/2025-26

A-303: On Line open tender is invited for EPC Contract (Turn Key Basis) for Mega Lift, Odisha

1. **Name of Work:** Execution of 04 nos. of Lift Irrigation Schemes with intake points on Kharsua River & Brahmani River having Command area between 500Ha. to 2000 Ha. in **Cluster No. XXXVII** in the district of Jajpur including its distribution network, up to 1 Ha Chak having total planned Culturable Command Area of 5,950 Ha. on "EPC -Turn Key" basis including power system connectivity and Operation & Maintenance of complete commissioned schemes for fifteen years.
2. **Period of completion:** 36 (Thirty-six) calendar months including rainy season.
3. **Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal :** 26.06.2025, 10 A.M.
4. **Last date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal :** 16.07.2025 up to 5.00 P.M
5. **Name & address of the officer inviting Bid :** Chief Engineer, Megalift, A-B/2, Bhoi Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Pin - 751022

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **"https://tendersodisha.gov.in"**

Sd/- Chief Engineer, Megalift Bhubaneswar

OIPR- 32504/11/0051/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER CANAL CIRCLE, BURLA.

e-Procurement notice no.- ACECCB-01/2025-26
Bid Identification No.- ACECCB-01/2025-26

A-321

1.	Type of the work	:	Lining Work
2.	No of works	:	1(One) no.
3.	Class of contractor	:	"A" & "B" class
4.	Bid identification No	:	ACECCB-01/2025-26
5.	Estimated cost	:	Rs.356.89 Lakhs (Approx)
6.	Period of completion	:	24 (Twenty Four) Calendar Month
7.	Date and time of availability of bid documents in the portal	:	Dt.25.06.2025 at 11.00 AM to Dt.09.07.2025 up to 5.30 PM.
8.	Last date/ time for receipt of bids in the portal	:	Dt.09.07.2025 up to 5.30 PM.
9.	Date of opening of Technical Bid (Cover-I)	:	Dt.10.07.2025 at 11.30 AM, O/o Additional Chief Engineer, Canal Circle, Burla
10.	Date of opening of Financial Bid (Cover-II)	:	To be intimated later
11.	Name and Address of the Officer inviting Bid	:	Additional Chief Engineer, Canal Circle, Burla-768017, Email Id: aceccburla12@gmail.com

1. Any addendum/corrigendum/ cancellation/ erratum of tender can also be seen in the said Website.
2. Further details can be seen from Government Website http://tendersodisha.gov.in.

Sd/- ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, CANAL CIRCLE, BURLA

OIPR- 32460/11/0014/2526

DOCUMENT LOST

The original Sale Deed has been lost. Doc. No. 4956/48-49 dt. 21st Feb 1949, Book 1, Vol-1045, Page nos. 112-114, are the registration details. The loss of document has been lodged online in Karnataka State Police. Report No.1664413/2025 dt. 21.06.2025. Finder, please hand it to the undersigned and will be suitably rewarded.

Bedathur S Ananthapadmanabha Gupta 20, Venkateshwar Nilaya, Paramahansa Road, 2nd Block Thyagarajanagara, Bangalore-560070. Ph: 9945431523

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that my clients (1) **ARUP SANTRA** S/o Sudher Santra and (2) **MAYNASANTRA** W/o Arup Santra, both are R/at No.12, 4th Floor, Nagarathpet Cross, Maldarpet, Bangalore-560002 are intending to purchase the schedule property from **S. NEMICHAND** S/o L. Sohanraj, R/at No.34, Mamulpet, Chickpet, Bangalore-560053. If any person having right, title, interest, claim or demand or any nature whatsoever in respect of the schedule property is hereby required to make the same known in writing along with the documentary proof thereof to the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication hereof. Failing which, my clients will purchase the schedule property and complete the transaction. Claims, if any made thereafter shall be deemed to have been given up or waived.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Municipal Old No.28, then No.42, present No.32/1, having New EPID No.2334628263, situated at Nagarthapet, (Ganiger Pete) Marimuniyannana Galli, BBMP Ward No.119, Dharmarayaswamy Temple, Bangalore, measuring East to West; 14feet 5 inches and North to South 26 feet having old RCC Roofed Building and bounded on East by: House of Kariyanna, West by: Building belonging to Suguna Bai, North by:- Northern portion of same property and Mari Muniyannana Galli and South by: Conservancy.

Suresh I. Mugalakki, Advocate
No.105, 2nd Floor, 3rd Cross, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru-560 009. Mob.No.9880782409
Date : 20.06.2025

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THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

Bank of Baroda

Bellandur Branch,
No.21, Opp Amba Bajaj, Near Central,
Outer Ring Road, Gennext, Bengaluru-560103

DEMAND NOTICE TO BORROWER /GUARANTOR

(UNDER SUB-SECTION (2) OF SECTION 13 OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002)

To,

1. **Mr. Mithun R,** S/o Late Sri. C Ramesh, (Legal Heir - Since Borrower Deceased) No.338, 3rd Cross Road, Nagamma Layout,Bellandur Village and Post,Bangalore-560 103.
2. **Mr. Bharath R.,** S/o Late Sri. C Ramesh., (Legal Heir - Since Borrower Deceased) No.338, 3rd Cross Road, Nagamma Layout,Bellandur Village and Post, Bangalore-560 103.
3. **Mrs. Ambika Appanna Reddy.,** W/o Late Sri. C Ramesh., No.338, 3rd Cross Road, Nagamma Layout,Bellandur Village and Post, Bangalore-560 103.(Guarantor)
4. **Mrs. Reethu Mithun,** W/o Mr. Mithun Ramesh.,No.338, 3rd Cross Road, Nagamma Layout, Bellandur Village and Post, Bangalore-560 103. (Guarantor)

DearSir/ Madam,

Notice for RECOVERY of Default account turned NPA

Re: Credit facilities with our Bellandur Branch

1. We refer to letter no.BROS/CD/RLCC/SAS/20837/08/18-19 dated 21.06.2018 conveying sanction of various credit facilities and the terms of sanction and restructuring sanction on 26.08.2021. Pursuant to the above sanction, you have availed and started utilizing the credit facilities after providing security for the same, as hereinafter stated. The present outstanding in various loan/credit facility accounts and the security interests created for such liability are as under:

Nature & type of facility	Limit Rs (in Lacs)	Rate of Interest	O/s (Contractual Dues) as on 19.05.2025(inclusive of interest up to 25.04.2025)	Security agreement with brief description of securities (please mention the details of security agreements and details of mortgaged property including total area and boundaries)
Term Loan under Baroda FRR Loan Scheme (746006/ 601)	725.00	(BRLLR+ SP+ 4.95%) ie.13.85% at present	**Rs.9,39,22,169.62** + all future charges from last date of application of interest and interest as applicable as per Bank's guidelines	Equitable mortgageof Sy.No 88 comprising of Ground , 1st ,2nd ,3rd,4th and 5th floor , admeasuring 33518 sq.ft along with playground admeasuring 18578 sq.ft land total area admeasuring 1 acre 25.15 guntas or 70785 sq.ft out of which vacant land consisting measuring east to west 185 sq.ft , north to south 139 sq.ft measuring 25715 sq ft situated at 3rd Cross Nagamma Layout, Bellandur village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore 560103 let out for Narayana Techno School registered through Simple Registered Mortgage Deed no BK-I-9878-2018-19 dated 23.07.2018in the SR office of Shivajinagar (Indiranagar) ,The property is bounded by East :Property belongs to Munireddy Layout, West :Road & then property belongs to Shobha builders, North: Belongs to Venkataswamy Reddy, South : Belongs to Sindhu Developers

2. In the various Loan Documents dated 21.06.2018executed by you, you have acknowledged your liability to the Bank (through legal signed documents dated 21.06.2018 and LAD dated 01.02.2025) to the tune of Rs. 7,25,00,000.00(Rupees Seven crores twenty-five lacs only) and restructuring documents signed on 26.08.2021 The outstandings stated above include further drawings and interest upto 25.04.2025.
3. As you are aware, you have committed defaults in payment of instalments of term loan/demand loans which have fallen due for payment on 18.02.2025 and thereafter.
4. Consequent upon the defaults committed by you, your loan account has been classified as non-performing asset on 19.05.2025 (mention date of classification as NPA) in accordance with the Reserve Bank of India directives and guidelines. In spite of our repeated requests and demands you have not repaid the overdue loans including interest thereon.
5. Having regard to your inability to meet your liabilities in respect of the credit facilities duly secured by various securities mentioned in para 1 above, and classification of your account as a non-performing asset, we hereby give you notice under sub-section (2) of section 13 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and call upon you to pay in full and discharge your liabilities to the Bank aggregating Rs 9,39,22,169.62 + all future charges and interest as applicable as per Bank's guidelinesas stated in para 1 above, within 60 days from the date of this notice. We further give you notice that failing payment of the above amount with interest till the date of payment, we shall be free to exercise all or any of the rights under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the said Act, which please note.
6. Please note that, interest will continue to accrue at the rates specified in para 1 above for each credit facility until payment in full.
7. We invite your attention to sub-section 13 of section 13 of the said Act in terms of which you are barred from transferring any of the secured assets referred to in para 1 above by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of business), without obtaining our prior written consent. We may add that non-compliance with the above provision contained in section 13(13) of the said Act, is an offence punishable under section 29 of the Act.
8. ***We further invite your attention to sub section (8) of section 13 of the said Act in terms of which you may redeem the secured assets, if the amount of dues together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank is tendered by you, at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction/ inviting quotations/ tender/ private treaty. Please note that after publication of the notice as above, your right to redeem the secured assets will not be available.***

Please note that this demand notice is without prejudice to and shall not be construed as waiver of any other rights or remedies which we may have, including without limitation, the right to make further demands in respect of sums owing to us.

Yours faithfully,
Sd/-
Authorised Officer,
Bank of Baroda, Bellandur Branch

Place: Bengaluru
Date : 21.06.2025

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED

Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612001.
E-Mail id : crmd@cityunionbank.in, **Ph :** 0435-2432322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746

RE-TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The following properties mortgaged to **City Union Bank Limited** will be sold in Re-Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of the undermentioned security debts due to the Bank, together with further interest and other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors mentioned herein below :

PART - 1

Name of the Borrowers: No.1) M/s. H M S Silk Industries, No.52, Melekote, Rehmaniya Nagar, Kanakapura - 562117. Also at, M/s. H M S Silk Industries, Sy. No. 221, Aralasandra Village, Kanakapura, Ramanagara - 562117. No.2) Mr. Majeed Shariff, S/o. Mohammed Shariff, Ward No. 12, Melekote, Near Urdu School, Kanakapura - 562117. No.3) Mrs. Majira Banu, W/o. Majeed Shariff, Ward No.12, Melekote, Near Urdu School, Kanakapura - 562117 No.4) M/s. MMS Silk Industry, No.236, Hannur Belathuru Village, Kollegala, Ramanagara, Karnataka - 571440.

Outstanding Liability Amount : Rs.1,94,01,236/- (Rupees One Crore Ninety Four Lakh One Thousand Two Hundred and Thirty Six only) as on **10-03-2025** together with further interest to be charged from **11-03-2025** onwards, other expenses and any other dues to the bank by the Borrowers / Guarantors.

Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged to our Bank	Reserve Price	Date & Time of Auction
Schedule - A : (Property Owned by Mrs. Majira Banu, W/o. Majeed Shariff) All that piece and parcel of Residential Property bearing Municipal Katha No. 8678/7383/A, PID No. 36-532-551, Measuring : East to West 15.240030 Meters and North to South 18.288037, situated at Ward No. 13, A. K. Colony, Melekote, Kanakapura Town, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District. Bounded on : East by : Road, West by : House of Puttaswami, North by : Road , South by : House of Chikkavenkataiah.	₹ 70,00,000/- (Rupees Seventy Lakh only)	15-07-2025 at 01.00 p.m.
Schedule - B : (Property Owned by Mr. Majeed Shariff, S/o. Mohammed Shariff) All that piece and parcel of the RCC Ground Floor, Commercial-cum-Residential Property bearing Old Municipal Khatha No. 5471/3667A Measuring : East to West 50 feet and North to South 54 feet together with 2700.00 sq. ft. situated at Rehmaniya Nagar, Melekote, Ward No. 12, Kanakapura. Bounded on : East by : Municipal Road, West by : House of Fayaz, North by : House of Fazil, South by : Municipal Road.	₹ 70,00,000/- (Rupees Seventy Lakh only)	15-07-2025 at 01.00 p.m.

PART - 2

Name of the Borrowers: No.1) Mr. Mohammed Musadiq Pasha, S/o. Mr. Mohammed Mujamil Pasha, 2nd Block, Yarab Nagara Mohalla, Ramanagara - 562159. Also at, Mr. Mohammed Musadiq Pasha, S/o. Mr. Mohammed Mujamil Pasha, Nidagatta Village, Maddur Taluk, Mandya District, Ramanagara - 571433. No.2) Mrs. Ruksana Banu, W/o. Mr. Mohammed Musadiq Pasha, 2nd Block, Yarab Nagara, Mohalla, Ramanagara - 562159. Also at, Mrs. Ruksana Banu, W/o. Mr. Mohammed Musadiq Pasha, Nidagatta Village, Maddur Taluk, Mandya District, Ramanagara - 571433.

Outstanding Liability Amount : Rs.80,88,725/- (Rupees Eighty Lakh Eighty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred and Twenty Five only) as on **19-06-2025** plus accrued interest to be charged from **20-06-2025** plus other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors.

Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged to our Bank	Reserve Price	Date & Time of Auction
Schedule - A: (Property Owned by Mr. Mohammed Musadiq Pasha, S/o. Mr. Mohammed Mujamil Pasha) All that piece and parcel of the Residential Property Bearing Khatha No.309/55/115/21, measuring East to West 50 feet and North to South 30 feet. Totally measuring 1,500 Sq.ft., Situated at Ward No.22, Kothipura, Ramanagara. Alongwith Superstructure putup thereon. Bounded on:- East by - 15 feet Road, West by - Property of Patel Venkatappa, North by - Site No.19, South by - Site No.23.	₹ 25,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakh only)	15-07-2025 at 02.00 p.m.
Schedule - B : (Property Owned by Mr. Mohammed Musadiq Pasha, S/o. Mr. Mohammed Mujamil Pasha) All that piece and parcel of Property Bearing Khatha No.311/57/117/23, PID No.22-4-532-479, measuring East to West 15.240030 meters or 50 feet and North to South 9.144018 Meters or 30 feet Situated at Ward No.22, Kothipura 1st Stage, Ramanagara Town, Ramanagara District. Bounded on:- East by - Road, West by - Property of Patel Venkatappa, North by - Site No.21, South by - Site No.25.	₹ 10,00,000/- (Rupees Ten Lakh only)	15-07-2025 at 02.00 p.m.

PART - 3

Name of the Borrowers : No.1) M/s. A M T Silk, No.226/433/45/2, Ward No.23, Tippu Nagar, Ramanagara - 562159. No.2) Mr. Amjad Khan, S/o. Ayub Khan, No.43, 3rd Cross, Tippu Nagar, Mohalla, Near Bismillah Circle, Ramanagara - 571511. No.3) Mrs. Kouser Banu, W/o. Amjad Khan, No.43, 3rd Cross, Tippu Nagar, Mohalla, Near Bismillah Circle, Ramanagara - 571511. No.4) Mrs. Shameen Taj, W/o. Ayub Khan, No.43, 3rd Cross, Tippu Nagar, Mohalla, Near Bismillah Circle, Ramanagara - 571511. Also at, Mrs. Shameen Taj, W/o. Ayub Khan, No.164/B, 3rd Cross, Tippu Nagar, Bismillah Circle, Ramanagara - 562159.

Outstanding Liability Amount : Rs.16,33,235/- (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Thirty Three Thousand Two Hundred and Thirty Five only) as on **18-06-2025** plus accrued interest to be charged from **19-06-2025** plus other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors.

Description of the Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank	Reserve Price	Date & Time of Auction
(Property Owned by Mrs. Shameen Taj, W/o. Ayub Khan) All that piece and parcel of Property bearing Municipal Khata No.226/433/45/2 Measuring : East to West (40 Feet) and North to South (60 Feet) Situated at Kothipura Amanikere Ramanagara Town, Ramanagara District. Total extent of Plot 2,400 sq.ft. with Residential Building Constructed therein. Bounded on : East by : House of Sharif Saheb, West by : House of Khaleemulla, North by : Private Property, South by : Road.	₹ 21,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty One Lakh only)	15-07-2025 at 03.00 p.m.

Venue of Re-Tender-cum-Auction : City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Ramanagara Branch, B.M.Road, 316, I Stage, Near Bus Stand, Bengaluru-Mysore Main Road, Ramanagara, Bengaluru Rural - 571511. Telephone No.080-27276688, Cell No.9379511195.

Terms and Conditions of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale :

(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself / herself. **(2)** The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from **The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Ramanagara Branch, B.M.Road, 316, I Stage, Near Bus Stand, Bengaluru-Mysore Main Road, Ramanagara, Bengaluru Rural - 571511. (3)** The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to **The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd.,** together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of **10%** of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of **"City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 12.00 Noon for PART-1** & **on or before 01.00 p.m. for PART - 2** and **on or before 02.00 p.m. for PART - 3. (4)** For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact : **Telephone No.080-27276688, Cell No.9379511195. (5)** The property/ies are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever-there is" basis. **(6)** The sealed Tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at **01.00 p.m for PART -1 & 2.00 p.m. for PART - 2 and 3.00 p.m. for PART - 3** Property on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the Sale will be by way of closed Tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an open auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed Tender process, and in such an event, the Sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of **City Union Bank Limited. (7)** The successful bidder shall have to pay **25% (inclusive of EMD paid)** of sale amount **immediately** on completion of sale and the balance amount of **75%** within **15 days** from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of **25%** shall be forfeited. **(8)** The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. **(9)** The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. **(10)** The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. **(11)** The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place : Kumbakonam
Date : 21-06-2025

Authorised Officer
City Union Bank Ltd.

Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, **CIN -** L65110TN1904PLC001287, **Telephone No.** 0435-2402322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746, **Website :** www.cityunionbank.com

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▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM
▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM
▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Iran can have reactors, but can't enrich uranium: Rubio

Iran will be allowed to operate nuclear power plants but not enrich its own fuel, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on Sunday

No reports of radiation from Iran, says IAEA chief

IAEA Director-General Rafael Mariano Grossi said the Iranian regulatory authorities have reported no increase in off-site radiation levels

80 injured in Israel as Iran fires volley of missiles

Iran fired a barrage of missiles against Israel, targeting Ben Gurion Airport, and other key targets. According to Israeli media, over 80 were injured

TRUMPFIRE ON IRAN NUCLEAR SITES

U.S. BOMBS FORDO, NATANZ AND ISFAHAN ■ 'OBLITERATED' THEM, CLAIMS TRUMP ■ IRAN SAYS 'A VERY BIG RED LINE' CROSSED, WARNS OF 'DANGEROUS CONSEQUENCES' ■ WORLD LEADERS CALL FOR CALM

AGENCIES @ Dubai/Washington/Jerusalem

AFTER waiting on the sidelines for days, the US on Sunday joined Israel's war against Iran, bombing three of the country's major nuclear sites using the rarely deployed GBU-57 bunker-buster bombs and the powerful Tomahawk cruise missiles.

"Iran's key nuclear enrichment facilities have been completely and totally obliterated. Iran, the bully of the Middle East, must now make peace," US President Donald Trump said after the strikes. He said Tehran must now make peace or brace for more attacks.

The Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran confirmed that attacks took place on the Fordo and Natanz enrichment facilities as well as the Isfahan nuclear site.

Both Iran and the UN nuclear watchdog International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said there were no immediate signs of radioactive contamination around the sites.

Iran reacted sharply to the attack, saying the US crossed 'a very big red line' and warned that there will be 'dangerous consequences' and 'far-reaching implications'.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian hit out at the US, saying the attack revealed it was the "main factor behind" Israel's military campaign in the Islamic republic.

Vowing to defend itself at all costs, Iran fired another volley of missiles at Israel, injuring scores of people and damaging buildings.

"There is no red line that they have not crossed. And the last one, and the most dangerous one, happened only last night. They crossed a very big red line by attacking nuclear facilities," said Iran's foreign minister Abbas Araghchi.

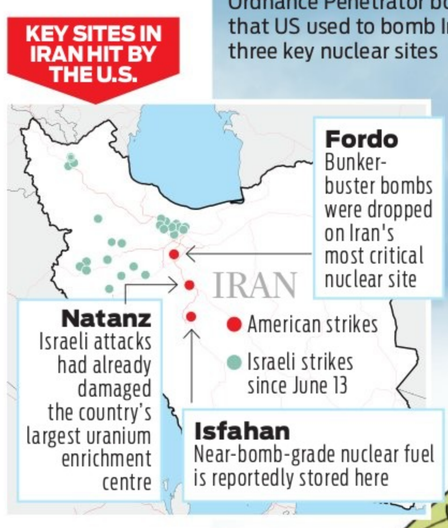
The foreign minister said he would soon fly to Moscow to hold discussions with Russia. "We enjoy a strategic partnership and we always consult with each other and coordinate our positions," he said, referring to Russia.

If US claims that the nuclear sites have been damaged beyond repair are confirmed, it could mark the end of for Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's ambitious plan to transform the Islamic Republic into a greater regional power that holds enriched nuclear material a step away from weapons-grade.

The developments have caused fears of the conflict intensifying and spreading wider. While the Trump administration said it still wanted to resume diplomatic talks with Iran, Tehran said the time for diplomacy had passed and that it would now do the needful to defend itself.

Meanwhile, US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said the Trump administration does not seek a regime change in Iran. He said the strikes ordered by Trump overnight had "devastated" Iran's nuclear programme and urged Iranian leaders to seek peace to avoid further attacks. He also sought to clarify that the strikes did not target Iranian troops or civilians.

Global leaders responded to the developments with shock and calls for restraint. The United Nations Security Council scheduled an emergency meeting on Sunday. Egypt warned of 'grave repercussions' for the region. Bahrain, home to the US Navy's Middle East-based Fifth Fleet, called on Iran and the US to 'quickly resume talks.' P9, 11

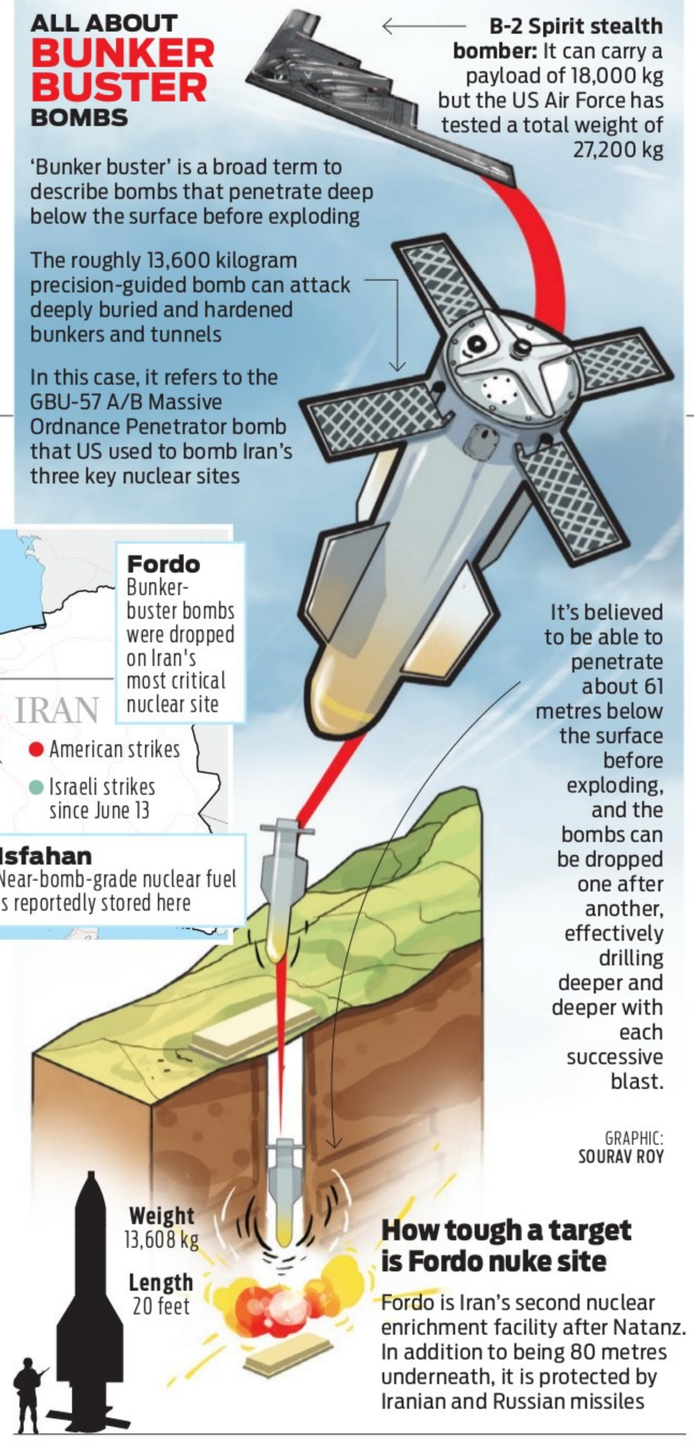

KEY SITES IN IRAN HIT BY THE U.S.
IRAN
Fordo
Bunker-buster bombs were dropped on Iran's most critical nuclear site
Natanz
Israeli attacks had already damaged the country's largest uranium enrichment centre
American strikes
Israeli strikes since June 13
Isfahan
Near-bomb-grade nuclear fuel is reportedly stored here

Iran's key nuclear enrichment facilities have been completely and totally obliterated. Iran, the bully of the Middle East, must now make peace

Donald Trump, POTUS

This aggression showed that America is the main factor behind the Zionist regime's hostile actions against Iran

Masoud Pezeshkian, Iranian President


ALL ABOUT BUNKER BUSTER BOMBS
B-2 Spirit stealth bomber: It can carry a payload of 18,000 kg but the US Air Force has tested a total weight of 27,200 kg
'Bunker buster' is a broad term to describe bombs that penetrate deep below the surface before exploding
The roughly 13,600 kilogram precision-guided bomb can attack deeply buried and hardened bunkers and tunnels
In this case, it refers to the GBU-57 A/B Massive Ordnance Penetrator bomb that US used to bomb Iran's three key nuclear sites
It's believed to be able to penetrate about 61 metres below the surface before exploding, and the bombs can be dropped one after another, effectively drilling deeper and deeper with each successive blast.
GRAPHIC: SOURAV ROY
Weight 13,608 kg
Length 20 feet
How tough a target is Fordo nuke site
Fordo is Iran's second nuclear enrichment facility after Natanz. In addition to being 80 metres underneath, it is protected by Iranian and Russian missiles

Iran dials India, Modi calls for de-escalation

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi spoke with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Sunday, voicing concern over the escalating Iran-Israel conflict, particularly as New Delhi is wary about rising tensions threatening regional stability. The 45-minute call, initiated by President Pezeshkian following US strikes on three key Iranian nuclear sites, included a detailed briefing on the evolving situation.

"India reiterates its call for immediate de-escalation, dialogue and diplomacy as the way forward and for early restoration of regional peace, security and stability," Modi said after the call.

Pezeshkian described India as a friend and partner. He expressed appreciation for India's consistent stance advocating dialogue and diplomacy. "India's voice and role is important in restoring regional peace," Pezeshkian told Modi.

Buzz on closure of Strait of Hormuz

AGENCIES

AMID the escalating tensions with Israel and the US, Iran's parliament has approved the plan to close the Strait of Hormuz—the only sea passage from the Persian Gulf to the open ocean and is one of the world's most strategically important choke points—Iran's Press TV reported on Sunday.

The proposal will now go to the Supreme National Security Council, headed by a nominee of Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, will take the final call, it added.

According to estimates, around 20% of the world's oil and gas moves through the Strait of Hormuz. If Iran decides to close the strait, it could send global oil prices skyrocketing. Iran's reported move follows US strikes on three Iranian military sites on Sunday.

Choking the strait—which handles around 20 million barrels of crude oil per day—could cripple oil exports from key Gulf producers including Saudi Arabia, Iraq, UAE, and Kuwait. While there are some alternate pipelines, they can only handle a small share.

IISc lab teaches machines to hear in noisy settings

RISHITA KHANNA @Bengaluru

AT a lab at the Indian Institute of Science's (IISc) Electrical Engineering department, Dr Sriram Ganapathy is trying to teach machines what most humans do easily — understand speech amid real-world noise. With his Learning and Extraction of Acoustic Patterns (LEAP) lab, he is focusing on decoding how humans speak, listen and interpret each other, specifically in noisy environments — where current artificial intelligence (AI) models fail. His research has much potential to develop smarter hearing aids in future.

By combining machine learning with neuroscience, the lab is not only training systems to identify speech and emotion, but also uncovering how the brain processes sound. Over the past nine years, the LEAP lab has worked on everything from developing speech recognition systems that function in noisy settings, to studying how the brain distinguishes between 'two speakers' in a conversation. Their research has attracted collaborations with companies like Samsung, Sony and Google.

More recently, the team at LEAP lab has been trying to use large language models (LLMs) — the same kind used in ChatGPT — to detect emotions in speech, a task that even the best AI tools still find it difficult. The lab ran experiments to study how humans can tell when a new person starts talking. P7

EC thinks of door-to-door verification of voters in Bihar

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

WITH an eye on ensuring greater accuracy in electoral rolls in Bihar where assembly polls are due later this year, the Election Commission on Sunday announced that it was contemplating an intensive house-to-house verification during the revision of the voter list in the state.

Official sources said the move is aimed at freeing the electoral rolls of errors, if any.Officials pointed out that concerns have been raised by various civil society organisations, political parties and others persistently over the inclusion or deletion of names in the electoral rolls.

Several parties, including the Congress, have accused the poll authority of fudging data to help the BJP.

A source said, "The ECI has repeatedly emphasized that it is committed to ensuring that only genuine and eligible citizens are enrolled in the electoral rolls."

Regular exercise of revision of electoral rolls is undertaken annually throughout the country by ECI and also before an election or by-poll, he said. The provisions regarding eligibility to be registered as a voter and disqualification are clearly laid down in Article 326 of the Constitution and Section 16 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, the source said.

Upa Lokayukta catches babus receiving bribes through apps

YATHIRAJU @Bengaluru

UPA Lokayukta Justice B Veerappa has kept pace with technology and come up with the idea of checking digital payments received as bribes by government officials during his surprise visits to districts. He has come across officials who have received bribes in lakhs of rupees through digital payments. Whenever officials sense an impending raid by the Upa Lokayukta, they quickly uninstall digital payment apps, like Google Pay, PhonePe, Paytm etc, from their phones.

But Justice Veerappa knows them and their modus operandi too well. He has now been taking with him a team of technical staff to check the mobile phones of officials. He will get the tech staff to re-install the apps within minutes and check if there are any suspicious financial transactions. He is assisted by his Secretary Aravind N V, Deputy Registrar-1. CONTINUED ON P7

With sanctuary tag, laterite mining may stop

SUBHASH CHANDRA NS
@ Mugali (Uttara Kannada)

THE state government's decision to declare Apsarakonda-Mugali as the state's first marine sanctuary will help conserve nearly 1,000 acres of laterite plateau, which is part of the sanctuary and spread across Karianakubri, Manki, Mugali, Kelaginooru and Aprasakonda villages.

The laterite plateau of Mugali

Popularly known as bricks with pores, this is the same laterite stone that is used extensively for the construction of houses and other buildings in the coastal region. The sanctuary status will, however, put an end to indiscriminate mining of laterite stones in the region.

It was in 2012 that the Centre for Ecological Sciences at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) recommended conservation of the laterite plateau.

This is the first-of-its kind protection accorded to lateritic conservation in the world, said Prof TV Ramachandra, Senior Scientist, Energy and Wetland Research Centre, IISc, who led the team that recommended the sanctuary status.

Because of its pores, the laterite stone plays a crucial role in allowing water to percolate into the ground. Indiscriminate laterite mining was one of the contributing factors for landslides and sea erosion in Uttara Kannada in recent times, several studies have revealed. P7

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BENGALURU

04 BENGALURU | MONDAY 23.06.2025 | newindianexpress.com

ALMANAC TODAY

• **Monday:** 23.06.2025 • **Year:** Vishwavasu • **Ayana:** Uttarayana
• **Ritu:** Greeshma • **Masa:** Jyeshta • **Paksha:** Krishna • **Tithi:** Thrayodasi 8.38 pm
• **Nakshatra:** Krithika 2.09 pm • Moon in Mithuna Rashi • **Rahukaala:** 07:30 am to 09:00 am
• **Gulikakala:** 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • **Yamaganda:** 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER

MIN 21°C | MAX 29°C

FORECAST
Showers early. Overcast

Sunrise 05.55 am
Sunset 06.48 pm
Moonrise 03.25 am
Moonset 04.46 pm

'WE THOUGHT IT WAS THE LAST NIGHT OF OUR LIVES'

Students, who land in city, recount horror of Israeli attack on Iran

From Top: Evacuees from Iran arrive at the Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru on Sunday; students Syeda Faize Zainab and Syed Mohsin Raza; a photo shared by Syeda shows the destruction in the area near her old dorm at Valiasr Street in Tehran

GAYATHRI M KURUP @Bengaluru

DARKNESS fell over Iran on a cold Friday evening, and this time, it was one of the darkest nights the city has faced.

"It was 3:30 in the evening on June 13 — I will never forget that date or time. Just one kilometer from our dormitory, missiles fell. There was a boom, like thunder. At first, we didn't know what had happened. When we realized it was a missile strike, we were numb and shaken," recalls Syed Mohsin Raza from Alipur, a second-semester MBBS student at Shahid Beheshti University who was staying in District 3, where the bombing initially began.

Syed was among the batch of students evacuated from Iran and who landed on Sunday.

Shockwaves shattered the windows of Tehran's buildings and the dormitory walls shook. "We first thought it was just an army vehicle or something," he said. "But then the windows broke, the opposite building shook... we saw it with our own eyes. We saw the missile and air defence system, and understood it was serious."

The Indian Embassy in Tehran was close by, but they couldn't go. "We contacted the embassy. We called them and asked for help as the situation was getting worse," Syed said.

Syeda Faize Zainab, who lived in District 6 of Tehran, remembers the chaos in her dormitory, running and hiding in the basement with the hope of saving her life. "There was bombardment and explosions all around, and we had to hide in the basements. We thought we would die, that it was the last night of our lives," says Syeda.

By Saturday, the situation grew more tense. "We couldn't sleep because of the explosions," shares Syeda. "Then the Indian Embassy stepped in, relocating students from Tehran to cities of Qom and Yazd. They were very responsive and helped us with relocation and accommodation. We were asked to stock up on food for 15 days. We stayed inside the dormitory the entire time, rushing down to the basement at the slightest sound. It was very scary when after a few days, our WhatsApp and Telegram stopped working, and we couldn't contact our families."

After two to three days, the situation in Qom was getting worse. "The Indian Embassy decided to relocate us to Mashhad. After one or two nights, they decided to evacuate us," said Syed. "We were told we could get evacuated through the communist-controlled border. But there was some issue. So we were taken by air once the airspace reopened."

"Indian Embassy officials treated us like their own children, providing everything we needed and keeping us safe. They took care of us 24/7. We are so grateful to them, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar... Now we are safe in our homeland," Syed said, his voice trembling. "But we wish our education is not halted, and the Iranian government helps us complete our education from here."

"Around 40 to 50 students from Karnataka have left Iran and are either in transit or have already landed. While 22 to 25 students from Gauribidanur have arrived, the rest are from Alipur, Chikkaballapur, T Narsipur, Mysuru and Bengaluru," said Arathi Krishna, Deputy Chairman of the NRI Forum, Government of Karnataka. "Almost 150 people in Iran are yet to return. They are being brought back in batches, with more expected to arrive on Monday on two different flights. Nearly 1,000 students from India are expected to return this way."

> **We were asked to stock up on food for 15 days. We stayed inside the dormitory the entire time, rushing down to the basement at the slightest sound. After a few days, our WhatsApp and Telegram stopped working** — Syeda Faize Zainab, who lived in District 6 of Tehran

Road dug up and pipes strewn around. The road opposite Shri Chitrapur Math at the junction of 8th Main Road, 15th Cross, which is called Chitrapur Circle, has turned into a 'no-go' zone for pedestrians and motorists. The arterial 8th Main Road, Malleswaram, which connects Mantri Green Metro with Yeshwanthpur Circle, is full of obstructions like pipes and debris for the last two months. The popular '90' route of BMTC which plied on this road has now been diverted to the narrower 6th Main Road, Malleswaram, causing severe congestion in this residential locality. Businesses are affected, senior citizens are facing severe hardships to move about and schoolchildren face problems navigating the roads.

SC survey deadline extended to June 30

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE deadline for the ongoing scheduled castes survey has been extended from June 23 to 30 to give a final opportunity to households that have missed out. Also, to ensure complete participation in the exercise within the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) limits, Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao on Sunday directed officials to begin placing stickers on households from Monday.

These stickers will confirm that enumerators had visited the household and the family participated in the survey.

The state government began a door-to-door survey on May 5 to collect empirical data on the representation of the 101 scheduled castes listed under the state's reservation categories. The survey aims to assess their participation in education and government services. The Justice Nagamohan Das Commission has been entrusted with overseeing this process.

Officials have urged people not to remove the stickers as these serve as official verification of participation.

Families can participate through one of the three options: visiting citizen service centres such as Karnataka One, Bengaluru One, Grama One, and Bapuji Seva Kendras, attending survey camps set up at BBMP ward offices in all 198 wards, or submitting an online self-declaration at https://schedulecastesurvey.karnataka.gov.in/selfdeclaration.

Chickpet chokes as BBMP delays white-topping work, traders upset

RISHITA KHANNA @Bengaluru

The junction near Chickpet Metro Station witnesses severe traffic congestion with thousands of people and vehicles passing every hour | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

EVEN as the BBMP claims that only 10% of white-topping work remains near the Chickpet Metro station, residents, traders and daily commuters said the disruption continues to be as bad as when the work first began.

The stretch - where the work is pending - is at a junction near the Metro, where thousands of people and vehicles pass through per hour, and the incomplete work and barricades are choking traffic in the area. People in the locality lament that if continuous rains begin before the work is resumed, the situation could worsen drastically with flooding and poor road conditions adding to the chaos. Traders around the Metro station said their businesses have already taken a hit due to reduced footfall and the BBMP is delaying in completing the last leg of work in scant regard to the area's commercial importance and traffic density.

"For someone like me who travels on this route every day to go to my college, it has become a nightmare," said Aakash. "Earlier, it would take just 5 to 7 minutes to cross this circle. Now, because of the road work, I get stuck for 15 to 20 minutes every day. While returning, no autos want to drop here because of ongoing work."

While a BBMP engineer claimed that the recent rainfall has delayed the work, local traders said poor planning and lack of coordination are the actual reasons.

Shopkeepers along the stretch said their businesses have been hit hard as customers are avoiding the area due to poor road access. "Because of this stretch, vehicles can't come near my shop at all. Earlier, we would get walk-ins throughout the day. Now, hardly anyone stops by," Prakash M, who runs an eatery, said, lamenting that for the BBMP just 10% of the work is remaining, but for the traders, it's affecting their daily income.

Traders said the work is being carried out in a disorganised way, with long gaps in between. "They dug up the area in front of my shop almost two weeks ago, started the work, and then disappeared without finishing it. For about 10 to 15 days, nothing happened. Then suddenly, they came back and resumed it," said Syed Jameel, who runs a small hardware store.

METRO FARES

Panel report not natl security document, make it public: Surya

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

BENGALURU South MP Tejasvi Surya has called for greater transparency from the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRCL), questioning its delay in making the Metro fare fixation committee report public.

In a post on X on Sunday, Surya compared the Bengaluru Metro system to the Moscow Metro, highlighting the latter's operational efficiency, design and affordability.

"Moscow Metro runs at 80-second frequency, covers the city with dense radial lines, costs a fraction and every station is a work of art," Surya posted. He stated that public transport should be more than just functional -- it should reflect ambition, aesthetics and respect for commuters, which, according to him, is a sentiment currently missing in Bengaluru.

Reiterating his demand, Surya said, "I have again reminded Managing Director of BMRCL to make public the fare fixation committee report." He questioned the secrecy surrounding the report, stating, "Why are you not making it public? What is it that you want to hide? It certainly isn't a document of national security implications that it can't be made public."

Purple Line service resumes

BMRCL resumed train services on the Purple Line at 7.55 am on Sunday after the completion of maintenance between Halasuru and Trinity stations. According to BMRCL, the maintenance was conducted to carry out infrastructure work and ensure continued operation.

DCM highlights tunnel road benefits, faces reality check from netizens

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

DEPUTY Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, who took to social media to highlight the key benefits of tunnel roads, faced strong criticism from netizens and Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya, who called the controversial project "unscientific" and "directionless". The DCM was advised to focus on the completion of ongoing projects and improving the public transport infrastructure.

Shivakumar, who is also Bengaluru Development and Town Planning minister, highlighted the key benefits of the Hebbal-Silk Board Tunnel Road project in an X post on Sunday.

In the post, he said the 16.75 km signal-free tunnel road would enable commuters to "skip over 25 traffic bottlenecks, save over 45 minutes every day, and gain direct access to the IT corridor." The DCM described the tunnel as a project that would "transform the daily commute" in Bengaluru.

The transformational benefits claimed by the DCM were countered with criticisms and netizens termed the project far from reality.

Contradicting the claims of the DCM, an X handle -- BharataNadu -- posted: "Face over 100 new traffic bottlenecks, drive over 45 minutes every day and 16.75kms of road less, signal free travel (sic)". The post pointed out that an unscientific, directionless and haphazard Bengaluru is on its way.

Civic activist Rajkumar Dugar demanded transparency and public engagement before proceeding with the tunnel road project. "We deserve transparent, fair public consultation with an open mind before proceeding with the Tunnel Road Project (TRP)," he posted, adding that attention should instead be on "walkability, cyclability, public transport, drainage, and cleanliness."

Another citizen, Raj, implied corruption in such mega infrastructure plans, saying, "When elected representatives are far from reality, they create plans to make themselves rich and pitch these kinds of slides to fool people. (sic)" He called for prioritising Metro expansion and mass transit investments instead.

The debate underscores the growing public demand for sustainable and inclusive urban mobility solutions over high-cost infrastructure projects that may serve limited commuter segments.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

23RD June : Strong lunar patterns indicate steadily increasing energy and enthusiasm. What would my advice be? Well, I'd say that it's a perfect moment for planning new enterprises – even if not necessarily launching them until you are good and ready. By the way, even the best stars do not indicate success without vital hard graft.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
It's easiest to take the line of least resistance and find a reasonable compromise! Probably the only decent way to proceed is to voluntarily insist that other people have their say. That way they'll give you the credit! Impeccable manners will help you achieve your aims, and traditional values will help cement a relationship.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
For once the planets are supremely considerate, aligned with your houses of work, partnerships and money in different ways. You could have a conventional day if you wish, but you can also gently experiment with new options. And then you can enjoy family and friendly activities.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Your basic lunar picture reverses the day's normal arrangements, favouring leisure early on, followed by powerful working influences this evening! This is obviously perfect if you're either a shift worker, or if you only click into gear when evening family obligations take over.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
You may not know what to do at work, but that won't prevent you from doing it! You must accept that past decisions may have to be revived, and there is nothing to be ashamed of in admitting that you may have been wrong. In fact, a partner might follow suit and concede that they weren't always right either!

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
It's an intriguing day for communication and discussion. This naturally favours those of you with important arguments to make, or interviews to attend. The mood of the week, as will become clear over the next few days, is creative rather than routine.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
The prevailing mood should be generally optimistic, but you have to make sure that your expectations match up with reality. Do try to tackle financial issues, amongst which are your own extravagant tendencies. There is nothing wrong with spending more than necessary, just as long as you have the readies in your pocket!

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Although the general situation is looking very positive, you must realise that in a number of minor issues the sands of time are running out. In particular, a run of social or emotional good luck is now almost coming full circle. That's why you need to pay attention to partners who are disgruntled.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
The fact that constructive alignments are powerful today, directly supports elements of your emotional character. Your deep secrecy and concern with justice, should guide your feelings. Your behaviour should be designed to boost the common good rather than merely your own self-interest.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
This is your week. Don't imagine that what happens on any one day will take place in isolation from the rest of your life. Instead, take a look at the way doors are opening to the future. The more detailed your plans, then the better the outcome will be.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
Happily, the general situation looks very reassuring. At work, a reasonably ambitious day may raise questions of law, morality and rights. An overseas contact may also come to be of increasing significance, and you might have a chance to mend fences with someone you haven't seen for a long time.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
The overwhelming general influence today is nice and pleasant. You should therefore be cushioned against lingering stress in a number of areas, including social engagements. You may be reminded of certain long-term responsibilities late this evening.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
Business partnerships on every level are favoured if your connection is with a young person, preferably a woman capable of exerting a sort of comforting and protective influence. It's also quite simply a good day for domestic bargains, mainly because you've a shrewd head on your shoulders.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

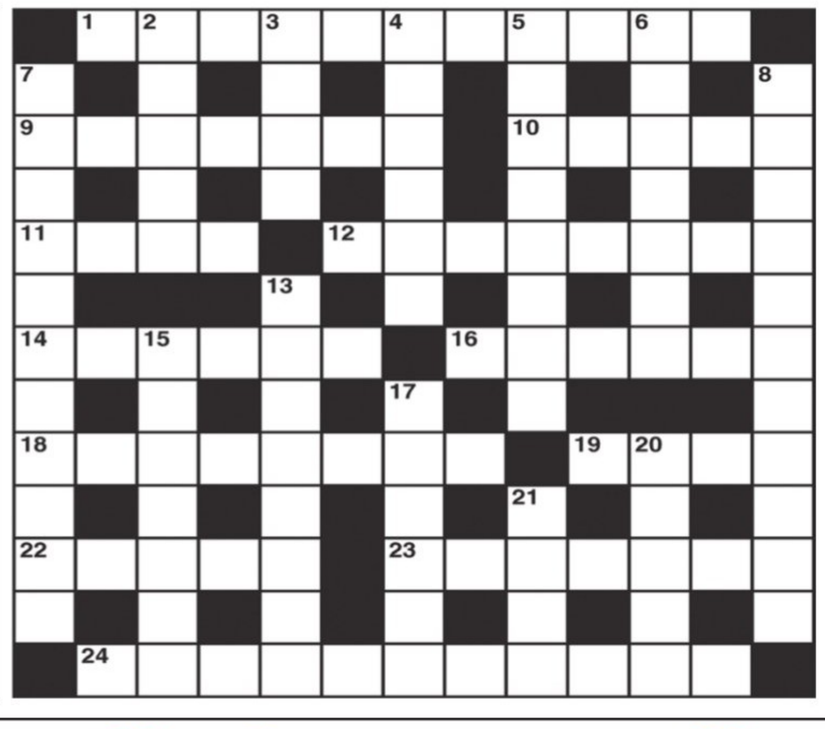
			1		5	4	3	8
			2			5	9	1
5	4						2	6
	3		7		4			5
				1				
6			9		2		7	
4	9						1	2
3	1	8			6			
2	7	5	3		1			

9	4	1	8	5	2	3	7	6
6	5	2	7	1	3	4	9	8
3	7	8	9	6	4	1	2	5
4	9	6	5	2	1	8	3	7
2	1	7	6	3	8	9	5	4
5	8	3	4	7	9	6	1	2
7	3	5	1	8	6	2	4	9
8	2	4	3	9	5	7	6	1
1	6	9	2	4	7	5	8	3

SU DO KU EASY

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS

1 Saint George free from apartheid (11)
9 The reason he left crime (7)
10 A factor in espionage (5)
11 Trifles - child's play really (4)
12 Tough guy joins club team (8)
14 Put little work into bad choice (6)
16 Ladies' champion in quest for a mate (6)
18 A dog to the Spanish, a bird to us (8)
19 Almost scorn physical stimulus (4)
22 Spill beans or fruit? (5)
23 Top water-sports champion (7)
24 Bullet that meant goodbye for someone? (7,4)

DOWN

2 Time is not on our side? (5)
3 The others take it easy (4)
4 Note the way in for superior people (6)
5 Learning to be a commuter? (8)
6 Door of opportunity? (7)
7 Doctors take it to heart (11)
8 Public announcements of secret rites (6,5)
13 Not altogether how teams get reshuffled (8)
15 Composition that calls for assurance of touch (7)
17 Time to make things palatable (6)
20 A plot to translate Ancient Greek (5)
21 Bloomer made by pupil? (4)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Spiral, 4 Scanties, 9 Ordain, 10 Escapade, 12 Digs, 13 Petal, 14 Cede, 17 Wonder-struck, 20 Numismatists, 23 Noon, 24 Bairn, 25 Loaf, 28 Insomnia, 29 Senior, 30 Gremlins, 31 Blonde.

Down: 1 Slow down, 2 Indigent, 3 Axis, 5 Casual remark, 6 Neat, 7 Isabel, 8 Sieges, 11 Perspiration, 15 Venue, 16 Acute, 18 Estonian, 19 Use force, 21 Ending, 22 Mousse, 26 Emil, 27 Neil.

JUMBLE

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

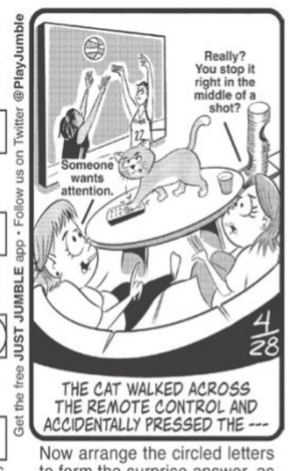
UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

NUSTT

TOBHO

NMWOIN

SHALPS


Really? You stop it right in the middle of a shot?
Someone wants attention.
THE CAT WALKED ACROSS THE REMOTE CONTROL AND ACCIDENTALLY PRESSED THE ---
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @Play-Jumble

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Ans. here: " " " "

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: CARRY GLADE DEFEAT IMPAIR
Answer: When the workers moved the giant rocks to build Stonehenge, it must have been — A REAL DRAG

As many as 30 passengers were injured after a gas tanker hit a KSRTC bus near Maranahalli in Shiradi ghat on Saturday evening. The injured were shifted to HIMS Hospital in Hassan. The accident occurred when the driver of the tanker lost control of the vehicle and hit the oncoming KSRTC bus. The vehicular traffic was disrupted for a while

Prolonged earphone use causes skin rashes, fungal infections in ear

It affects the ear canal or the outer ear: Docs

RISHITA KHANNA @ Bengaluru

WHILE many remain unaware of the risks, doctors are linking prolonged earphone use to a rise in ear syndromes, which are resulting in skin allergies from earphone material and fungal infections affecting the ear. These conditions, once considered rare, are now becoming commonplace as people across age groups use earphones for extended periods.

ENT clinics are reporting cases of earphone-induced contact dermatitis (allergic reaction to the rubber, plastic, and metal parts of the earphones) leading to itching, redness, or flaking in and around the ear, along with fungal otitis -- a fungal infection triggered by sweat and moisture getting trapped inside the ear canal — especially when earphones are worn, without ventilation.

Dr Jyotirmay S Hegde, HOD and Lead Consultant ENT at Aster Whitefield Hospital, said Earphone-Induced Contact Dermatitis is a type of skin allergy or irritation that occurs when ears react to the material in earphones and earbuds. The condition affects the skin, either inside the ear canal or around the outer ear.

"When one wears earphones for a long time, the material in them can irritate the skin. Some earphones are made of rubber, plastic, silicone, or even metals like nickel, which can cause allergic reactions. These materials, when mixed with heat, sweat, and friction from long hours of use, can trigger a skin reactions," he added.

Dr Hedge stressed, what makes this condition tricky is that many people do not realise it is caused by their earphones, instead assuming it as just dry skin, and they continue using earphones. Also, using random creams without a proper check can lead to infection, he said. Highlighting another dangerous syndrome - Fungal Otitis, Dr HK Susheen Dutt, Senior Consultant ENT, Neck, and Skullbase Surgeon at Fortis Hospital, explained that this condition mostly affects the part of the ear that leads from the outer ear to the eardrum.

"Unlike a typical ear infection caused by bacteria, this is caused by fungal growth — conditions that happens when people wear headphones for long hours. The infection can develop when the ear remains moist for a long time. Using unclean or shared earphones can also introduce fungus," Dr Dutt said, adding that when people frequently clean their ears with cotton buds or objects, they may remove the protective layer of earwax.

People with fungal otitis usually experience symptoms like itching. There may also be a watery or thick discharge from ear, which can appear white, yellow, green, or even black.

Riding on eggshells: Half-helmet menace on

Cop dies of head injuries in hit-and-run case

Dharwad: Yet another accident on the Hubballi-Dharwad bypass road claimed the life of a cop late Saturday night. The victim has been identified as Assistant Inspector of Police (ASI) Yellappa Kumbar (52), who was returning home in Dharwad from Hubballi on his bike when the accident happened. Kumbar was knocked down by an unidentified speeding vehicle near Itigatti. Police have registered a case of hit-and-run accident. Police said ASI Kumbar, who was working at the Hubballi rural police station, died of head injuries. Navalgund MLA NH Konaraddi was travelling on the same route when the accident occurred. He got down from his vehicle and called an ambulance, but the victim could not be saved. Road users have alleged that sudden diversions on the bypass road are causing accidents. They have demanded CCTVs along the road and stressed on the need to monitor speeding vehicles. **ENS**

Motorist argues with cop over fine, leaves without paying, arrested

Bengaluru: The Jnanabharathi police on Sunday arrested a 30-year-old man for allegedly obstructing a traffic police officer from discharging his duty. The accused, identified as Naveen Gowda, had fled following an argument with the traffic police officer, who had stopped him for riding without a helmet, near Ullal Main Road on Saturday. Around 2.10 pm on Saturday, Jnanabharathi traffic PSI Kumar C and his team were conducting routine checks on Ullal Main Road. When Gowda was stopped for not wearing a helmet, Kumar asked him to pay a fine. However, Gowda allegedly raised his voice and argued with the officer, saying, "You can collect fine, but cannot book a case." He also claimed that he was the local JDS president, before riding away without paying the fine. On Sunday, the PSI filed a complaint under Section 132 (assaulting or using criminal force against a public servant to deter them from their duty) of the BNS. **ENS**

GAYATHRI M KURUP @Bengaluru

DESPITE being banned in multiple cities, half helmets or "shorties" continue to be widely used by motor vehicle riders in Karnataka, violating both safety and legal standards. Even after measures were taken to solve the problem, half helmets have become a common choice for motorists.

"In Kochi, if I go out wearing this cap-like half helmet, I' am sure I would be fined," said Adarsh, a commuter new to the city.

"Though half helmets are not specifically 'banned' in Karnataka, they're definitely not safe for commuters. We have conducted many initiatives and awareness programmes. The camera can't distinguish between half helmets and fully covered helmets, so people usually get away with it," shared DCP Traffic South Shivaprakash Devaraju.

"Half helmets violate ISI standards due to their low quality and the exposure of the chin and face. The traffic police are supposed to take action against them, but they have other responsibilities too which doesn't give them time to check every individual," explains Sreehari M N, a traffic expert.

"There is no protection you get from such helmets. The side jaws aren't protected, therefore, in case of an accident, the impact can be severe," says Dr Anand N Chavan, consultant–orthopaedics at Fortis Hospital. "There are so many cases here with head injuries due to such mishaps. We were able to save the patients those who wear the protective gear," he said.

"If you wear these 100-rupee helmets, it means your head is only worth of that. Two of my friends lost their teeth because of this. There's a reason why we're told to wear riding gears," said Ashwini MS, a bike enthusiast.

KSPTA files FIR against Ola, Uber & Pai

ENS @Bengaluru

The Federation of Karnataka State Private Transport Associations (KSPTA) has filed a complaint petition against entrepreneur TV Mohandas Pai, as well as bike taxi aggregators Ola, Rapdio and Uber, for allegedly supporting a protest held outside Vidhana Soudha opposing the state's ban on bike taxis.

According to the petition submitted to the police by S Nataraja Sharma, president of the federation, a social media post by Mohandas Pai and Ola, Uber and Rapido aggregators allegedly encouraged bike taxi riders to gather and protest outside Vidhana Soudha.

The complaint states that the protest was held without police permission, violating High Court guidelines as well. Meanwhile, police have received the petition but are yet to initiate action.

VIBRANT TALENTS

Nerehore Pratibhe Pradarshana, organised by Gopalan Arcade Mall, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru, celebrates talent, culture, and community as young performers delight audiences with dance and mimes on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

EXPRESS READ

Gardener's borrowed education fund for daughters stolen

Bengaluru: A gardener working at a palace ground in the city was robbed of Rs 65,000 in cash, the money he had borrowed for his three daughters' education. The incident happened on Saturday afternoon. He has lost 5 grams of gold ornaments. The victim, Srinivas, has filed a complaint with the Sadashivanagar police station. According to police, the incident took place when Srinivas and his wife were at work, and their three daughters had gone to school. An unidentified miscreant allegedly broke into the house and stole Rs 65,000 in cash and gold. Police have analysed CCTV footage, and said that they found someone known to Srinivas who might be involved. **ENS**

Woman ends life with 8-year old daughter over property dispute

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

A woman tied her eight-year-old daughter to her back and ended their lives by jumping into an agricultural pond. The incident occurred on the outskirts of Bengaluru, under the Vishwanathapura police station limits, around 3 am on Saturday.

The deceased are Mala (30), a homemaker, and her younger daughter Anushree (8), a Class 2 student at a private school. Mala is survived by her husband and daughter aged 10.

Investigations revealed that the woman took the extreme step following a property dispute at home. Her husband had transferred 10 guntas of land to a relative after a discussion with his mother and brother. Mala was upset that her husband made the transfer without informing her, leading to an argument, the police said.

The police said that on Saturday morning, the family members began searching for Mala and Anushree when they noticed the two were missing. They later found their bodies floating in the agricultural pond and alerted the police.

Based on a complaint filed by the woman's family, a case under section 108 (abetment of suicide) of the BNS has been registered against her husband, police added.

HELPLINE

If you are having suicidal thoughts, or are worried about a friend or need emotional support call Sneha Foundation **04424640050,**
Tele Manas **14416** (available 24x7) or call, the Tata Institute of Social Sciences' helpline **02225521111** which is available Monday to Saturday from 8 am to 10 pm.

KARNATAK LINGAYAT EDUCATION SOCIETY
Lingaraj College Road, BELAGAVI – 590001, Tel.No.0831-2404040

No.:Id.Ren/1691

NOTICE

The members of the KLE Society except who have already got their Identity Card renewed in the year 2024, are now provided an opportunity to get their Identity Card renewed for the purpose of preparation of Electoral Roll for the ensuing KLE Election-2026 of the KLE Society.

In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution & Election rules of the Society, the members are required to renew their Membership / names In the Electoral Roll of the Society, by paying Rs.50/- as Renewal Fees and Rs.100/- to obtain New Identity card of the Membership to be eligible to vote & contest in the ensuing General Elections of the Society. In case the old Identity Card is not surrendered, an additional fee of Rs.100/- is payable.

Such members are hereby informed to obtain the prescribed application form from KLE Society Head Office and submit the same with name and correct address, along with a Demand Draft of Rs.150/- (or In cash at the office of the undersigned) drawn in favour of "President, K.L.E. Society, Belagavi", with the existing Membership Card and two stamp sized recent photographs before 31st July, 2025.

Members who wish to obtain the application form through post, are requested to send a letter of requisition along with self-addressed envelope affixed with postal stamp of Rs.10/-.

The members who fail to renew their names in the Electoral Roll and also obtain New Identity Card, as stipulated, lose the right to contest the election and also to cast the vote in the forthcoming Society General Election.

Belagavi.
Date : 20.06.2025

Sd/-
SECRETARY,
Board of Management,
K.L.E. Society, Belagavi-590001

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

Regional Office Bengaluru South,
First Floor, 19 South End Road
Basavanagudi Bengaluru 560004
Email id: recblrro2@canarabank.com

DEMAND NOTICE [Section 13(2)]

NOTICE TO LEGAL HEIR OF THE DECEASED BORROWER/ DECEASED PARTNER OF THE BORROWER PARTNERSHIP FIRM

Whereas, the Authorized Officer of the **Canara Bank, DVG Road, Basavanagudi Branch** under the Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (2)of Chapter-3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice/s on below mentioned date, calling upon the following borrower/s/ Guarantor/s /Legal heirs of borrsowers to repay the dues within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

Name of the Legal heirs of Borrowers: Smt. Nandini, D/o Kamraj S L Flat No B-103 First Floor, Metrotech Forest View Apartment, Sy No 67/5 (Old No 67/4), Talaghattapura Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South 560062, **Alternate Address : Smt. Nandini,** Flat Number TF 04, Third Floor, Winds of Change Apartment, Judicial Layout, 2nd Phase, Jyothipuram, Talaghattapura Village, Uttarahalli Hobli , Bangalore South 560062

Schedule A : (Details of the credit facility/ies availed by the Borrower)

Sl. No	Loan Number	Nature of Loan/ Limit	Date of Sanction	Amount Sanctioned
1	04419330001074	Housing Loan	27.11.2020	Rs. 25,00,000.00

Total Liability as on 29.05.2025 **Rs.25,85,019.49** (Twenty Five Lakhs Eighty Five Thousand Nineteen and Forty Nine Paisa Only) + interest together with further interest and incidental expenses and costs.

Date of NPA: 29.05.2025 **Demand Notice Date:31.05.2025**

Schedule B : All that part and parcel of residual apartment bearing Flat No B-103, 2BHK, on the first floor of in the apartment building known as "Metrotech Forest View, having a super built area of 1069 sq.ft, along with share in common areas with one car parking space in the stilt floor, with 299 sq.ft of undivided share, right and interest in composite property in sy number 67/5, (old sy number 67/4) measuring 18,562 sq.ft situated at Thalagattapura village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, now under the jurisdiction of BBMP and bounded by East By: Land in Sy no: 67/4, West By: Land in Sy no 67/3, North By: Portion of the same property & U.M.Kaval Boundary, South By: Road.

Name of Title holder: Sri Kamaraj S L

The above borrowers committed default of repayment of loans as above and the loans are duly secured by way of mortgage of property described as above and were classified as Non Performing Assets on various dates mentioned as above. The Bank issued Registered to all the above borrower/Guarantors under Section 13(2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, (SARFAESI Act) calling upon them to repay the outstanding amount. We now call upon to pay the above mentioned liability with further interest and cost accrued till date within 60 days from the date of this notice, failing which, Bank will be constrained to exercise its rights of enforcement of security interest as per Section 13(4) (a) to (b) of SARFAESI act 2002 against the secured assets given in the schedule above. The above borrower/s in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the above properties and restrained from dealing in term of Section 13 (13) of SARFAESI Act 2002 and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Canara Bank for the accounts mentioned above with further interest and cost, expenses thereon.

Place : Bangalore **Sd/-**
Date : 31.05.2025 **Authorised Officer**
Canara Bank

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public at large are hereby informed that, my client have negotiated and agreed to purchase the Schedule Property described herein below mentioned property, from Sri. Samad Ansar Basha Son of Late M. Abdul Samad, aged about 65 years, residing at No.45, Kaliamma Koil Street, Halasuru, Bangalore North, HAL II Stage Post, Bangalore District, Karnataka-560008. Aadhaar No.6584 1644 1600. As such any person/s/ Company / Bank/ institution having any claim whatsoever over the schedule property are hereby called upon to file their objections, claims along with supporting documents to the below mentioned address within 5 days from the date of this notification. If no objections / claims are received within the above said period my client shall proceed to conclude the sale transaction as if there are no objections or claims whatsoever and my client shall be considered as bona fide purchaser of the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing site Nos.17, 18 & 19, BBMP old khatha No.20/17,18 & 19, and BBMP New Khatha No. E. P.I.D No.9247417199, situated at Devasandra Village Krishnarajapuram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, formerly this property comes under the Jurisdiction of Krishnarajapuram CMC, now this property comes under the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Bangalore, measuring East to West 20+24/2 and North to South 83+73/2 in all measuring 1716 Square feet, together with all rights, appurtenances, whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on the: East by : Road, West by : Private Property, North by : Drainage, South by : Site No.16

SRI. G. V. ANJANEYA GOWDA
ADVOCATE & CONSULTANT
#250, White City Layout, Seegehalli Village, Bangalore-560049. Mobile No. 9900716419

NMDC Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise)
10-3-311/A, CASTLE HILLS, MASAB TANK, HYDERABAD-500028
Telephone: 040-23536740 , 23538713 to 23538721 Ext: 535
EMAIL: kvprakash@nmdc.co.in, jvenkatesan@nmdc.co.in

Global Tender Notice (E-Procurement Mode Only)

Tender No.NMDC/HO/MM/PURCH/2024/42 **Dtd. 21.06.2025**

(MSTC Ref no: NMDC/Head Office/Material Management/8/25-26/ET/241)

E-tenders are invited for following items from reputed manufacturers directly or through their dealers / accredited agents through MSTC portal website **https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eprochome/nmdc/buyer_login.jsp.**

Description	Qty (No)	Pre-bid meeting date	Display & Sale of Tender Documents Period	Last date & Time for submission of offer
Supply and Erection & Commissioning of 10 Nos. 9-11 Cu.M Hydraulic Excavators (Derated to 8-9 Cu.M) including COST CAP/MARC (03 nos. under MARC & 07 nos. under COST CAP) for 12 Years/32000 Hrs., whichever is earlier.	10	27.06.25	FINAL 07.07.25 to 28.07.25	28.07.25 By 02.30 PM (IST)

Prospective bidders may visit our websites: **www.nmdc.co.in**; CPP Portal **https://eprocure.gov.in**; **https://mstcecommerce.com** and may download the tender documents. Any corrigendum to the above tender notice will be uploaded on our website and MSTC e -portal only. **GM (Materials)**

The Grain Merchants' Co-Operative Bank Limited
H.O, No.2, Pampamahakavi Road, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru - 560 018.
Phone 26677552, 26679041
Estd.1927

PUBLIC AUCTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

The Borrower **Sri S.R.Ranuka Prasad, S/o late S.Rudrappa, No.11, Sompura, Kengeri Hobli, Vidhyapeta Post, Bangalore-560060. Surety: Smt S.Vedavathi, W/o Sri S.R.Renukaprasad.** The debt due to Bank as on **18.06.2025** of **Rs.1,05,76,154/ -** + Interest & miscellaneous expenses. Auction sale under the securitization and reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforce of Security Interest Act 2002 Section 13(4) of the Immovable properties mortgaged to The Grain Merchants' Co-Operative Bank Ltd., is brought to Sale under **"AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION" "AS IS WHAT IS CONDITION"on 25.07.2025, Friday at 11.00 am.** Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/(s) and Guarantor/(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, **Symbolic possession** of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the property bearing Sy.No.1/1, present BDA Khatha No.1/1, Sompura Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, Measuring 1-05 (or 1½) guntas (out of 1 acre 1 ½ guntas) within the limits of BDA and the property is bounded on East by: Road, West by: Property belonging to Gowramma and her children. North by: Govt. Road & South by: Gramatana property belonging to Honnappa.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

(1) The public auction will be conducted in the premises of The Grain Merchants' Co-Operative Bank Ltd., Head Office No.2, Pampamahakavi Road, Chamarajpet, Bangalore-560018.

(2) For participation in the auction the intending bidders have to deposit an amount Rs.4,96,450/- equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price Rs.49,64,500/- being cautioned deposit by means of Demand Draft/Pay Order drawn in favour of M/s.The Grain Merchant's Co.Operative Bank Ltd., The cautioned deposit shall be forfeited by the bank without any prior notice, if the successful bidder fails to adhere to the terms of sale, time and commits default in any manner.

(3) The Property "SHALL NOT" be sold below the reserve price

(4) In case the bidder is not successful the EMD amount shall be refund without interest.

(5) The successful bidder should deposit 25% of the sale price (inclusive of EMD) immediately after the auction sale, on the same day, in Cash or Demand Draft and the balance of the Sale price within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale. In case of default by the successful bidder, all the amounts deposited till then shall be forfeited without notice and the property shall be put for re-auction.

(6) The successful bidder shall bear the statutory dues/taxes/charges/property tax/electricity charges/water charges/conveyance charges such as stamp duty, registration fee etc. that is required to be paid in order to get the property conveyed in his favour, as per the applicable laws.

(7) The authorized officer has absolute right to accept or reject any or all if the tender or/bid/ offer and/or adjourn/postpone/ cancel the auction sale without assigning any reason, and also to modify an or all terms and conditions of the sale without prior notice.

(8) The sale is subject to confirmation by the Bank.

(9) The property can be inspected by the intending bidder between 10.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. at his/her expenses at the address mentioned in the schedule.

(10) The property is put for sale on **"AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION" AND "AS IS WHAT IS CONDITION"** the intending bidder shall satisfy himself about the title,ownership,statutory approvals, encumbrances etc. of the property.

Place: Bangalore **Sd/-**
Date: 18.06.2025 **Authorised Officer,**
The Grain Merchants' Co Operative Bank Ltd.,

SUNDARAM HOME

Regd Office: No. 21, Patullos Road, Chennai - 600 002.
Corporate Office: Sundaram Towers, No. 46, Whites Road, Chennai - 600 014.
Branch Office: No.8, Ground Floor, Sai Prabhu B Street, Sirur Park, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru - 560020.

DEMAND NOTICE

(Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act 2002)

The under mentioned parties are hereby informed that the Company has initiated proceedings against each of you under the SARFAESI ACT, 2002, and that the notices under Section 13(2) of the Sarfaesi Act sent to each of you separately by Regd. Post Ack. due have been returned unserved. Hence both / all of you are hereby called upon to take notice to pay jointly and severally the below mentioned outstanding amount within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the Company shall proceed and exercise all or any of the powers conferred upon the Secured Creditor under Section 13 (4) of the Sarfaesi Act to realize its dues with interests and costs as contemplated under the Act. Needless to mention that this notice is addressed to you without prejudice to any other remedy available to the Company.

Sl. No.	Name & Address of Borrower & Co-Borrower	File No. Amount (Outstanding Rs.)	Description of the Secured Property
1	**Mr. Shaik Shain Sha (Borrower),** No 1155, 6th Cross, B M Layout, Near Macca Masjid, Venkateshapuram, Bengaluru – 560045. **Mrs. Shafiya Begum (Co-Borrower)** No 1155, 6th Cross, B M Layout, Venkateshpura, K G Halli, Bengaluru, Bengaluru - 560045.	**File No. BNG20220108 Rs. 47,66,826/-** As on 03/06/2025) along with further interest, Cost and other charges etc., if any till actual date of payment)	All that piece and parcel of the property A bearing Site No.1, formed in Survey No.42/3, and 42/4, situated at Nagawara Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, presently jurisdiction comes under BBMP, Municipal No.6, Old Municipal No.5/A, 6 & 7/A, PID No.96-192-6, New PID No.022-W0286-35, situated at Kanakanagara Main Road, Old Ward No. 96, New Ward No.22, measuring East to West 84 Feet, North to South 122 Fett, totally measuring 10248 Square Feet, **bounded on:** East by: Fortuna Apartment, West by: Private Property, North by : Road, South by: Remaining Portion of the same Survey Number. **SCHEDULE B PROPERTY:** Undivided share, right, title and interest of 364.64 Square Feet in the Schedule A Property. **SCHEDULE C PROPERTY:** Residential Two Bed Room Flat bearing Number G-5, in the Ground Floor, in the building known as CELESTIAL STARS with super built up area of 1246 Square Feet constructed on Schedule A Property, RCC Roofed Structure, Solid Brick Wall with Vitrified Floor, Honne Wood Doors, which is inclusive of two bed rooms, drawing room, kitchen, balconies, utility spaces, floors, ceiling and walls between the apartments and proportionate share in all common area, together with one covered car parking in the stilt floor.
2		**File No. BNG20220122, Rs. 4,73,066/-** As on 03/06/2025) along with further interest, Cost and other charges etc., if any till actual date of payment)	

for SUNDARAM HOME FINANCE LTD.,
Authorised officer.

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Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka on Sunday accused the Congress government in Karnataka of looting the public, in order to pay the Congress high command to fund its elections in other states like Bihar. He further alleged that ministers are in a race to fund and please the high command, through graft

Karnataka's high Elector-Population Ratio (EPR) of 70.61, higher than the national average of 65, has caused a demographic flutter. Chikkamagaluru district tops the chart with an EPR of 85.84. Among Assembly constituencies, Chamundeshwari in Mysuru district has an eye-popping EPR of 97.94. Migration, low birth rate and under-registration of the voting population partly explain the phenomenon. Population studies experts, however, say the trend is neither good nor bad, but will certainly have consequences such as the state losing political clout in Parliament. It is time the government woke up to meet the challenges the shift in demography presents, by improving healthcare facilities for a greying population and providing quality education for a growing Generation Next

ADULTS ONLY

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

KARNATAKA is gradually becoming an adult-dominated state, with people below 18 years of age gradually on the decline, when compared with the young voting population and number of senior citizens.

The Elector-Population Ratio (EPR) from the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Karnataka, showed the state's ratio as of January 2025 as 70.61. This is higher than the national average of 65.

But there are variations within the state. Some districts have a higher EPR. The ratio in Chikkamagaluru district is 85.84, followed by Kodagu with 84.25. Other districts more or less toe the state average line.

"The EPR shows the number of electors in the state. The idea of preparing it regularly is to know if all the people above 18 years of age (voting age) are included in the rolls or not. The present EPR data shows the number of electors in the state is high, the elderly and people above 18 years are more than the young and newborn. However, this does not give the accurate population as the base for calculation (actual population of the state) is not accurately available in the absence of the latest census report," explained Manoj Kumar Meena, Chief Electoral Officer, Karnataka.

Assembly constituency data from the department showed that Chamundeshwari in Mysuru district has been recording the highest EPR of 90.98% in the state since 2021. It dropped to 88.30 in 2023 and then rose to 97.94 in 2025. A rise has also been noted in Chikkamagaluru -- in 2021, the EPR was 84.15, which increased to 89.15 in 2025.

There has been a drastic jump in Virajpet assembly constituency in Kodagu, where the EPR of 78.58 in 2021 increased to 82.73 in 2025. A similar pattern can be seen in Udupi's Karkala constituency -- from 80.91 in 2021 to to 82.60 in 2025.

Taking note of this, the Election Commission of India has sought an explanation from Karnataka on the high EPR in specific locations — Chamundeshwari, Chikkamagaluru and Nagamangala. EC officials also noted that these figures raised concerns on the seemingly low share of the under-18 population.

"As part of our assessment, we sought explanations from district-level officials on the reasons for high EPR in some districts. They cited migration, low birth rate and under-registration of the voting population, and also stated that due to oversized population projections, the EPR remained abnormally high in low-growth districts and low in high-growth/ migrant-heavy districts," explained an official from the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Karnataka.

The official, who does not wish to be named, said that further interaction with people to understand the reason for low birth rate revealed economic conditions and even the need to attain professional excellence.

BIG PICTURE

Citing an example, the official said: "In one village in Chikkamagaluru, of the 100 people we counted, we noted that 90 were aged 45-70 years, and there were just 10 who were below the age of 18. This being the case, some districts in Karnataka are quickly moving towards the very low growth stage."

Bengaluru's unique demographics

According to experts from the Election Commission and demographers, the situation in Bengaluru is different and unique. It has a high population and the highest workforce. But this does not indicate that all are voters and part of the electoral roll. Thus, Bengaluru's EPR is below the state and national average. Bengaluru Urban is 63.21, BBMP South 51.78, BBMP North 54.93, BBMP Central 52.94, and Bengaluru Rural is 70.18.

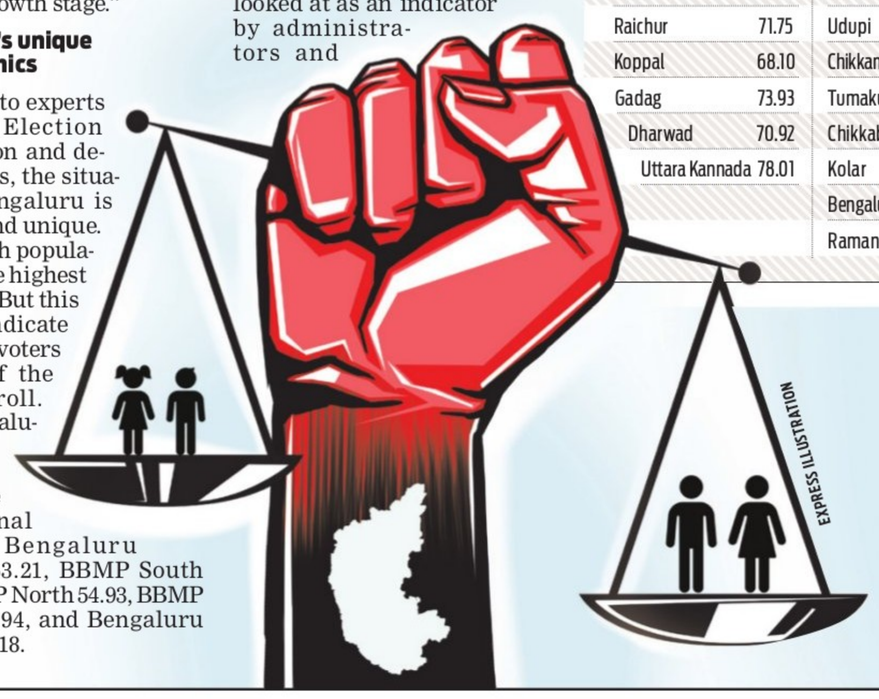
"Bengaluru houses a large number of young people. It is a youth-centric city with a good number of elderly people and children. But most of them are migratory. They stay here, with voting rights elsewhere. Healthcare facilities and economic growth in Bengaluru is very high, but at the same time the fertility rate is on a gradual decline. A separate study on Bengaluru city is needed," they said.

Impact on political clout, workforce

Experts added that the EPR is declining all over the state. One of its effects will also be on the number of seats Karnataka will have in Parliament, when compared to other Indian states, especially those in North India, where the population is rising.

This is because the population decides the number of elected representatives and hence, the number of seats. But the bigger concern, experts point out, is the reduction in workforce over the next two decades and the rise in the number of dependents (senior citizens). They point out that Kerala and Tamil Nadu are heading swiftly towards this scenario, and Karnataka is following on similar lines.

With the delay in the Census exercise from the Union government, the EPR should be looked at as an indicator by administrators and political parties to plan policies to channelise future growth.



EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

"It also shows that fertility rate is declining. But the share of the young population has increased. While India has the highest workforce presently, which is a matter of pride, it is also a matter of concern for the future. Variations in EPR within the districts of Karnataka are also an indication of the economic and health variations in the state," said Purushottam M Kulkarni, demographer and former professor of Population Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

Transition to a grey society

Demographers pointed out that the transition — the rise in the elderly population — cannot be termed good or bad. Every country goes through this. But it is important to understand what it indicates and how the information is utilised.

Kulkarni said this transition raises the concern of how the government will support the increasing elderly population. The number of old-age homes/ centres and facilities will need to be improved, the healthcare sector will need to be strengthened. The quality of education and the workforce will need to be improved. While the migrating population will meet the rising aging concern in Karnataka, society as a whole will need to address it.

Demographers stated that India is now progressing to what China and Japan already are. India's population is around 145 crore and Karnataka's population (as on January 6, as per Election Commission) is 7,86,86,044. By 2030, the number of senior citizens in Karnataka will increase from 8% to 12%.

Family planning successful

CM Lakshmana, Professor and Head, Population Research Centre at the Institute of Social and Economic Change, said, as per the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5, the fertility rate in Karnataka is 1.7 and the findings of NFHS-6 data (which is yet to be released) indicate that Karnataka's average will be around 1.6. This is less than the national average of 2.1 in NFHS-5, and 2 in NFHS-6. The global average is 1.8.

The decline in fertility is because of the success of the national and state health mission programmes. Families in urban and rural areas and even in slums are now taking successful steps for family planning. Earlier, families wanted a male and female child, but now they follow the dictum that male or female, the child should be healthy and successful. Some say the stage of zero-fertility will happen by 2080, but the stage of complete irreplaceable fertility is far-fetched. There is negative fertility, Lakshmana said. He added that the concern the governments should immediately look at is 20 years down the line, when the present workforce will age and reduce. Thus, inter-state migration should be encouraged, and international migration arrested for economic and demographic security, he added.

The yet to be released NHFS-6 report noted that there is low fertility in the districts of Dakshina Kannada, Chikkamagaluru, Kodagu, Hassan, Shivamogga, Bengaluru Urban and Mysuru. There is moderate or mid-level fertility in Tumakuru, Gadag, Davangere, Kolar and Mysuru, and high fertility in parts of Raichur and Kalaburagi. The state government needs to focus more on North Karnataka regions under Article 371-J, demographers said.

Economic, educational factors

Economic status and better education have a direct correlation to the size of the family. Women are no longer dependent and suffer family punishment. They have become decision-makers and this drives fertility and the size of the family. Thus, when the economic condition of a region improves, and not just the district's infrastructure, the health of families also improves, said Srinivas Goli, Associate Professor in Demography, International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai.

Goli added that the fertility transition started 200 years ago globally, and is a natural cycle. Some countries like China, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Taiwan and now France, also are experiencing lowest fertility. This transition is irreplaceable as, even if incentives are offered, many families, especially women, are not coming forward to accept it.

Parmod Kumar, acting director at the Institute of Social and Economic Change, said that while low fertility is an indicator of economic development, it is also a matter of concern. "It does not mean that countries, states and people should not develop/ grow. Western countries have started looking at mechanisation as a tool to address the shortage of labour and we are also moving towards the same. The population growth rate in North India is higher than in South India. Population growth in North Karnataka is higher than in southern and coastal Karnataka, and in fact, growth rate of Karnataka is higher than Kerala. Reversing it is a personal choice and financial incentive schemes have no impact," he said.

CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICS

WHAT IS EPR?

All demographic estimations, including those for the electoral roll, rely on projected population data. These projections are derived using multiple methods like the Geometric Growth Method, which is used by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Karnataka. This forms the basis for calculating the EPR at the district and assembly constituency levels. It is an indicator showing the number of people above 18 years of age on the electoral rolls.

What is the meaning of replaceable level?

On an average, up to the age of 50 years, a woman gives birth to two children, preferably daughters, to replace herself and her partner, to ensure the population growth remains stable. The average replacement level is thus 2.1, as many women do not survive till the age of 50 years. But now Karnataka's replaceable level is 1.7, this is below the national level of 2.

ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCIES WITH HIGHEST EPR

Name	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Chamundeshwari	90.89	90.61	88.30	95.47	97.94
Chikkamagaluru	84.15	85.10	84.73	88.10	89.15
Nagamangala	87.68	86.84	85.62	88.61	89.01
Narasimharaja	80.92	81.30	77.71	84.20	88.06
Hassan	81.54	80.99	79.44	85.02	87.80

ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCIES WITH LOW EPR

Name	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Chikkaballapur	72.80	72.28	72	72.82	72.79
Nanjangud	73.98	73.12	71.09	72.47	72.98
Hunsur	72.33	71.88	70.83	72.70	73.01
Sullia	74.05	73.27	72.29	73.17	73.07
Sidlaghatta	73.94	73.62	71.52	72.75	73.07

District-wise EPR as on January 2025

Belagavi	72.06	Haveri	72.07	Mandya	83.72
Bagalkot	70.85	Ballari	65.31	Hassan	82.82
Vijayapura	67.95	Chitradurga	75.64	Dakshina Kananda	75.39
Kalaburagi	71.03	Davanagere	78.19	Kodagu	84.25
Bidar	70.51	Shivamogga	78.84	Mysuru	76.51
Raichur	71.75	Udupi	83.07	Chamarajanagar	79.62
Koppal	68.10	Chikkamagaluru	85.84	BBMP Central	52.94
Gadag	73.93	Tumakuru	81.78	BBMP North	54.93
Dharwad	70.92	Chikkaballapur	74.37	BBMP South	51.78
Uttara Kannada	78.01	Kolar	72.50	Bengaluru Urban	63.21
		Bengaluru Rural	70.15	Yadgir	64.82
		Ramanagara	82.75	Vijayanagara	66.08

Fresh caste census gets rolling, Siddu names 4 to BC panel

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister **Siddaramaiah** has taken the initiative to start a fresh Socio-Educational Survey, with the nomination of four members to the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes.

Former IGP K Arkesh from Channapatna, advocate Shivanna Gowda from Mysuru, assistant professor with a college in Mangaluru B Sumana and retired principal CM Kundagol of Dharwad will be the new members.

The government had nominated former advocate-general Madhusudhan R Naik as chairman on January 31, 2025. Now with a full-fledged commission, it is likely to hold meetings and give suggestions to the government to take up a survey of the state's 7 crore people. It is up to the government to decide on either giving the task to the commission, or setting up a separate committee headed by an expert, especially a retired high court judge, according to sources.

Siddaramaiah asked his cabinet colleagues to give their suggestions, and planned to have the survey completed by December 2025.

The Finance department is yet to give its clearance to fund the survey. The government had spent Rs 169crore on the Socio-Economic and Educational Survey (SES-2015). The commission headed by H Kantharaju had conducted the survey between April 11, 2015, and May 30, 2015, covering 5.98 crore people. This time, the exercise is likely to be more exhaustive, and the government plans to use technology to finish it early. The services of schoolteachers are scarce as the academic year has just started, so there is a plan to use them during their free time after classes, said a source, adding that they will be remunerated.

Even as Siddaramaiah tabled the Kantharaju Commission's SES-2015 in the cabinet, there was strong opposition from the two dominant communities -- Vokkaligas and Veerashaiva Lingayats -- who termed it unscientific and demanded a fresh survey. They had alleged that their communities were undercounted. DCM DK Shivakumar was a signatory to the Vokkaliga community's demand. Other Backward Classes also joined the bandwagon, and there was also opposition to recommendations of former Commission chairman K Jayaprakash Hegde to classify the backward classes quota.

CM all set for high-stakes showdown on his visit to Delhi

BANSY KALAPPA @ Begngaluru

IN what is shaping up to be a politically charged face-off, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is set to land in New Delhi on Monday for a three-day mission -- one that could escalate tensions between the state and the BJP-led Union Government.

With a packed schedule and simmering grievances, the visit is being closely watched for its potential to reset Centre-state dynamics. The CM is expected to meet President **Droupadi Murmu** and raise the issue of crucial state bills being held up at the Rashtrapati Bhavan because of a conflict with Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot. The standoff, which the state government claims has paralysed decision-making, will be flagged at this high-level interaction.

Siddaramaiah is also expected to confront Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman over "fiscal discrimination". The flashpoint being the Rs 5,000 crore that is due for the Upper Bhadra Project - a national scheme in name, but starved of funds for years. With accrued interest, the total pending amount stands at Rs 7,000 crore.

Another priority for Siddaramaiah is the long-delayed nomination of four Members Legislative Council. Though there has been criticism and opposition from within the party to the nomination of Ramesh Babu, Dinesh Amin Mattu, Arathi Krishna and DG Sagar, he is going ahead with these names.

Political analyst BS Murthy called it "strategic and coordinated," comparing it to Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin's push to pressure the Centre through the President and judiciary. "This signals a growing trend of assertive federalism. Both Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are rallying for their rightful share of taxes and stalled project funds. This visit will only increase the pressure on the Centre to act. This could trigger the other non-BJP states too to take this route," he said.

Though political circles were abuzz that Siddramaiah could opt for a cabinet reshuffle, highly placed sources were categorical that there would be no such exercise at this juncture.

As the political mercury rises, all eyes are on Delhi -- where Siddaramaiah's mission could set the tone for a new era of confrontation, coordination, or both.

Let's see how CM responds to Patil's letter: Bommai

GADAG: BJP MP Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday said the people of the state are keen to see how CM Siddaramaiah responds to a letter written by Law Minister HK Patil, who has expressed dissatisfaction over the government's action on illegal mining cases. He said Patil has raised a very important issue stating that about 90 per cent of registered cases in mining have not been resolved. "The present government is from his own party. He is a member of the same cabinet. Now, let's see how the CM will respond to a case raised by one of his own ministers", Bommai said, adding that Patil has demanded the setting up of a special court and high-level probes.

Kumaraswamy slams Congress over housing scam

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mandya

UNION minister HD Kumaraswamy accused the Congress government of attempting to divert public attention from alleged irregularities in the Housing Department by circulating a letter written by Law Minister HK Patil.

Speaking to reporters on Sunday after laying the foundation stone for a hi-tech auto stand in Mandya, Kumaraswamy said, "Congress MLA BR Patil clearly mentioned in an audio clip that houses were being allotted to those who paid money. I'm not surprised by the allegations or the revelations, they're widely known."

He further alleged that even ruling party MLAs are being forced to pay bribes to get government funds released for their departments and constituencies. "It's not the MLAs, but middlemen running the show. These middlemen get work done by offering money, while MLAs are reduced to being figureheads. This is the kind of system currently operating in the state, and it's the worst," he said.

Former prime minister HD Deve Gowda is conferred the Sri Ganga Sri Purusha award by Adi Chunchanagiri Mutt seer Sri Nirmalanandanatha Swamiji, while other seers, Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy and Bengaluru Rural Lok Sabha member Dr CN Manjunath look on, in Bengaluru on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

Calling it a betrayal of the people, he added, "Owning a house is a dream for every poor family. But the government is extorting money from them. Why are middlemen even allowed inside Vidhana Soudha? It's the ministers who have institutionalised this corruption by fixing rates within their departments."

When asked about the government's proposal to build a tunnel road in Bengaluru, Kumaraswamy sarcastically responded, "Let them build tunnel roads not just in Bengaluru, but across the entire state."

Criticising the Congress government for unfulfilled promises, he pointed at the delay in the Yettinahole project. "They claimed Yettinahole water would reach Kolar by 2027. But that water hasn't even left Kadumane Estate. Over Rs 15,000 crore has already been misused. In 2013, the Congress performed the ground-breaking puja and promised to supply water to Kolar and Chikkaballapur in two years. Now it's 2025, and there's still no water," he said.

A member of a trekking group that took the Vazhachal trekking trail of the Kerala forest department was injured in a wild elephant attack on Sunday. The injured, Manu, hails from Thrissur

Month after marriage, AP man killed, kin suspects wife

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kurnool

IN a chilling case, Tejeswar, a 32-year-old private land surveyor and dance master from Rajaveedhinagar, Gadwal Town, Telangana, was found murdered near the HNSS canal in Sugalimetta, under Panyam police station limits in Nandyal district, Andhra Pradesh.

The grim discovery, made just a month after his marriage to Iswarya from Kallur, Kurnool, has sparked allegations of foul play, with the victim's family pointing fingers at his wife and her alleged accomplices.

According to Panyam Circle Inspector Kiran Kumar, Tejeswar had been missing since June 17, prompting his brother, Tejavardhan, to file a missing person report with Gadwal Town Police. Using mobile location tracking, authorities located his body on June 21 near the HNSS canal.

Tejavardhan, devastated by the loss, alleged that Iswarya was involved in an extramarital affair with Tirumala Rao, a bank manager in Kurnool. He further claimed that Iswarya's mother was also romantically linked to Rao, and together they conspired to eliminate Tejeswar, perceiving him as an obstacle to their plans.

According to the brother's complaint, the accused lured Tejeswar under the pretext of a land survey assignment, only to murder him with the help of close associates. "Her frequent phone calls and secretive chats raised suspicions, but she dismissed them as talks with her mother," Tejavardhan told police.

MISSING WOMEN

TWO MORE HELD IN TELANGANA HUMAN TRAFFICKING CASE

Nearly 60 tribals trafficked to other states in the past six months

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Adilabad

THE Kumurambheem Asifabad police on Sunday arrested two more accused who had been absconding in a human trafficking case linked to the district. The accused were traced to Madhya Pradesh and taken into custody by police teams.

According to Circle Inspector Ravinder, the arrested were identified as Bashar Ramesh Goud (A7), a native of Dabla village, Mandsaur district, and Soni Jagadesh (A9), a native of Javari. Both hail from Madhya Pradesh.

The officer said the investigation is ongoing, but no specific figures are yet available regarding the number of missing women reportedly trafficked to Madhya Pradesh.

Reacting to the arrests, Adivasi Hakula Porata Samithi (Thudum Debba) district president Kotnak Vijay Kumar warned of large-scale agitations across the erstwhile Adilabad district and the state if the government fails to take strict action against those involved.

"It is deeply concerning that many tribal women have gone missing in recent months and were traced to other states only through Aadhaar card updates. This shows the state's lack of responsibility toward Adivasis," he said.

He claimed that nearly 60 tribal women had been trafficked to other states in the past six months. "The accused must be booked under the PD Act and SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. If strong action is not taken, we will launch massive protests across the state," he warned.

It is concerning that many women have gone missing in recent months and were traced to other states only through Aadhaar card updates — Kotnak Vijay Kumar, Adivasi Samiti district president

8K new constables, 500 SIs soon, says Dr G

RAGHOTTAM KOPPAR @ Koppal

HOME Minister **Dr G Parameshwara** on Saturday informed that the 8,000 police constable positions which have remained vacant for the last five years, will be filled soon. Addressing a press conference at the Congress office here on Sunday, he added, "During the previous dispensation, no PSI recruitments were done. Our government has corrected everything, and we will also recruit 500 sub-inspectors soon."

Separately, Parameshwara denied having any knowlegde about the change in KPCC president. On a question about the audio clip involving Karnataka Planning Commission Deputy Chairman BR Patil, the home minister said the former should clearly state the same, "so that we can take action, and Patil should complain to the police".

Responding to a question on Law Minister HK Patil's letter to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, the home minister said he has explained about the loss of Rs 1.50 lakh crore to the government, and has not complained against it.

He added that there was a delay in illegal mining cases being probed, and action will be taken on the same.

Referring to the move against narcotics in the state, Parameshwara said, "We are going to make Karnataka a drug-free state. We will take all necessary steps to stop the drug menace in Anegundi, and if the need arises, we will open a police station there as well."

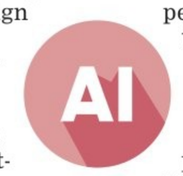
POWER SNOOZE

Vendors take a quick nap on vegetable bags on their way to market in Hyderabad on Saturday | SRI LOGANATHAN VELMURUGAN

IISc lab enhances hearing technology with help of AI

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

IN ONE test, people had to press a button when they noticed a change in speaker. Interestingly, those who didn't understand the language were quicker at identifying the change. "If the language is unknown, the brain pays more attention to the voice and tone, not the meaning," explained Ganapathy, stating that this could help design smarter hearing aids.



A big part of Ganapathy's work is in "representation learning", where machines are trained to pick up patterns from audio. These patterns help machines identify different voices, accents and emotions — even when the speech is not very clear. Apart from better hearing aids, this research can help build virtual assistants that sound more human.

The lab is also working on Explainable AI (xAI), which analyses how trustworthy and understandable AI decisions are. In one project, the lab trained image-recognition models to identify important visual areas mentioned in captions. It performed better than older models. This can be used in speech models too, helping AI understand and explain its answers more clearly.

During Covid-19, Ganapathy's team created Coswara, an app that used sounds of cough and voice to detect possible Covid infections. They trained the model using samples from people across India. Although the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) discussed scaling it up, it didn't move forward. The team later published its findings in 2023. His journey began in Kerala, where he studied Electronics and Telecommunications at the College of Engineering, Trivandrum (CET). He later joined IISc for an MTech in signal processing. .

Everything changed when he attended a talk by Hynek Hermansky from EPFL (Swiss Federal Technology Institute of Lausanne), Switzerland. Ganapathy contacted him and joined his lab there. After his PhD, he worked at the IBM TJ Watson Research Centre.

Bribe trail: Officials took lakhs via UPI apps

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

DURING his recent surprise visit to Mandya district, around 500 government staff and officials had uninstalled such apps. The technical staff made them all reinstall the apps and found hefty bribes being rerouted to them from the accounts of their friends and relatives.

Take the instance of Mandya Taluk Panchayat Manager VS Bairesh, who received complaints against employees though he did not have the authority to do so. Armed with such complaints and without informing the executive officer, he would confront the employees and blackmail them. In collusion with certain officials, he would also make money from zilla panchayat officials who were expecting promotions. His salary was Rs 90,000 per month, but he had received lakhs from his mother's phone through PhonePe.

Another was Mandya Zilla Panchayat Deputy Secretary Babu M, who had digital transactions beyond his actual salary in his PhonePe account. He was allegedly threatening and harassing women employees. He was accused of not forwarding complaints he received against panchayat development officers and other employees to the chief executive officer to protect them.

Both Bairesh and Babu had not obtained permission for transactions and also not mentioned them in their assets and liabilities, which is illegal.

Justice Veerappa said they have stopped checking the pockets of public servants but scrutinise their digital payment apps that reveal sordid stories of bribery. It started when he visited the Nelamangala Municipal Corporation near Bengaluru. Officials there had received huge amounts of money through these dig-payment apps without getting the necessary approvals from their higher-ups or the government which is mandatory under the Karnataka State Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 2021.

He said it is common to see government staff uninstalling such apps soon after his visit. He witnessed it in Davanagere, Ballari and Kolar districts.

Jagan's driver in custody as video of accident surfaces

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Guntur

GUNTUR police on Sunday allegedly took into custody Ramanareddy, the driver of the vehicle that fatally ran over YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) worker Cheeli Singaiah during former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's rally in Sattenapalli on June 18.

The incident, initially attributed to an unidentified vehicle, turned controversial after disturbing videos surfaced showing that the car carrying Jagan himself was involved in the accident.

The mishap occurred near Eturukuru village as the convoy was en route from Tadepalli to Rentapalla in Palnadu district. Jagan was on his way to console the family of a deceased party worker.

Singaiah, a 55-year-old from Vengalayapalem, attempted to throw flowers at Jagan's vehicle when he slipped in the crowd and was run over by the car's front wheel. The vehicle paused briefly but soon continued moving, even as chaos unfolded.

Initially, police claimed that a private vehicle ahead of the convoy was responsible. However, videos widely circulated on social media on Sunday clearly showed a black SUV-the one carrying Jagan-crushing Singaiah under its front wheel. The windshield of the car was covered with rose petals, and supporters were seen standing on the bonnet as Jagan greeted the crowd.

Superintendent of Police S Satish Kumar confirmed at the press meet held on June 18, after the incident came into light, that the vehicle proceeded without stopping and that ASI Rajashekhar later took the victim to the hospital, where he was declared brought dead.

Nallapadu police registered a case and launched an investigation. Police have since reviewed CCTV footage and field reports, and reportedly questioned Ramanareddy about the sequence of events.

While police had authorised only three vehicles and about 100 supporters for the rally, a large crowd ended up following the convoy from Tadepalli to Rentapalla village. The lack of proper crowd control and violation of rally norms have raised serious concerns about the safety and legality of the event.

The incident has triggered a political storm, with YSRCP accusing the ruling coalition of politicising the tragedy, while opposition leaders continue to demand accountability over the lapses in security and the preventable death.

Gowda asks PM to help farmers as mango rates crash, weather hurts

EXPRESS NEW SERVICE @ Bengaluru

FORMER prime minister HD Deve Gowda on Sunday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan, seeking the Centre's intervention in helping Karnataka's mango cultivators, who have suffered a double-whammy of unpredictable prices and bad weather.

Karnataka is a major contributor to mango production globally, Gowda pointed out, requesting the Centre to initiate a Price Deficiency Payment and Market Intervention Scheme for immediate fruit procurement in Karnataka through NAFED and NCCF, which will support farmers and alleviate rural distress.

"Further, mango is one of the major horticultural crops of Karnataka, cultivated over an area of 1.39 lakh hectares, particularly in Bengaluru Rural, Bengaluru Urban, Chikkaballapura, Kolar, and Ramanagara districts, with an estimated output of 8-10 lakh tonnes during the rabi season. However, due to inclement weather and diseases, the mango yield has dropped to less than 30 per cent

this year, according to farmers," Gowda wrote.

"Prices fell from Rs 12,000 per quintal to Rs 2,000, while the cost of cultivation was Rs 5,466 a quintal. This has financially stressed the farmers, with many small and marginal mango growers unable to cover even basic costs," he elaborated.

He said Andhra Pradesh's ban on Totapuri mangoes from entering Chittoor district, which borders Karnataka, has disrupted the supply chain, risking post-harvest losses for the state's border mango growers, noting: "This has created tension among the mango growers leading to protests in many districts, especially Kolar and Chikkaballpura."

Gowda also mentioned that the Karnataka Chief Minister and Chief Secretary have asked the AP government to revoke the ban immediately.

MVIT hosts graduation, farewell day

Bengaluru: The Sir M Visvesvaraya Institute of Technology held its graduation and farewell day on May 24. The event marked the graduation of the institute's 36th batch of students. The ceremony featured an academic procession, oath-taking and distribution of certificates to meritorious students. Dr K S Shanmukh Aradhya delivered a farewell address, followed by student reflections on their academic journey. Vidyashankar S, Vice-Chancellor of Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU), highlighted the evolving role of technology in higher education, stressing the need for perseverance and adaptability in today's digital era. He elaborated on how AI-powered tools and e-learning platforms are reshaping assessment methods and enhancing the student learning experience. The event was presided over by V Srinivasa Raju, president of Sri Krishnadevaraya Educational Trust. Senior trustees, including L K Raju, Sanjay K R and K V Sekhar Raju were present. Srinivasa Raju spoke of the institution's recent memorandum of understanding with Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) to enhance academic initiatives. The event concluded with a call for graduates to uphold the legacy of Sir M Visvesvaraya and contribute meaningfully to society.

Region has 124 species of flora: Scientists

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

IN 2012, a team of scientists led by Ramachandra, MD Subhash Chandran and Prakash Mesta had conducted an extensive study and submitted a report – 'Conservation Reserve Status to Lateritic Plateau of Coastal Uttara Kannada', recommending the reserve status to two lateritic plateaus, Bhatkal in Bhatkal taluk and Mugali in Honnavar taluk near Manki.

The study said, "The reserves are declared for the purpose of protecting landscapes, flora and fauna and their habitat. We recommend these areas strongly for protection of their uniqueness in flora and fauna,

their ancient geological ages (laterites were formed 88-90 millions ago before the continental drift)."

Marine expert Mesta said, "The region is unique in that it has 124 species of flora, including ground flowers which bloom in monsoon, the only source of nectar for honey bees during rains. In the checklist, we have at least 100 species endemic to India and 34 endemic to the Western Ghats. The region has several ground-dwelling mammals and reptiles like porcupine, mouse deer, hares, civet cats, pangolins, rodents and monitor lizards. Most of these mammals on laterite patches consume a lot of salt in the form of saline water."

Vasanth Reddy, conservator of forests, Canara Circle, said the sanctuary status will be a new chapter in the conservation of coastal ecosystems. Conservation of the Mugali laterite plateau is important, considering its geographical and geological importance, he said.

Tamil Nadu sees 50% rise in bull-taming events this year

B ANBUSELVAN @ Chennai

TAMIL Nadu witnessed an increase in cattle sports, including bull-taming and racing, with 138 more events held between January and May this year compared to the same period last year. According to official sources, a total of 352 events of Jallikattu (bull taming), Eruthu Vidum Vizha (bull racing), and Manju Virattu (bull chasing) were conducted across 19 districts involving approximately 1.14 lakh bulls. This is more than a 50% jump compared to the 214 such sporting events held in 2024.

A total of 352 events of bull-taming were conducted across 19 districts involving around 1.14 lakh bulls | EXPRESS

The tentative number of bulls that took part in these events may be 25,000 to 26,000 as one bull usually participates in four to five events. Due to a lack of unique code to identify each participating bull, the official figure of 1.14 lakh participating bulls may be inflated, sources said. Around 41,000 bull tamers took part in these events across the state. Native bull breeds such as Kangayam, Umblachery, Alambadi, Bargur, and Pulikulam took part in these events.

As per the last livestock census taken in 2019, Tamil Nadu had around 3.3 lakh indigenous bulls. "There seems to be a slight increase in the number of bulls in recent years. However, the exact figures will be known only when the 21st Livestock Census results are released in a few months," said an official from the Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services.

The official noted that bull-taming events had traditionally remained unorganised, with no formal record of bulls, tamers, or spectators. Sources indicated that the animal husbandry department sent a proposal to build a comprehensive database that generates a unique identification code for each participating bull. "Currently, there is no mechanism to track the number of events in which a single bull may have taken part. A proposal has been submitted to the state government to address this gap. The portal will also help us identify district-wise bull populations and breeds that will be vital for conserving native breeds," the official said.

EDITORIAL

"Peace is not absence of conflict, it is the ability to handle conflict by peaceful means" — Ronald Reagan

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

SCAR ON TRUMP'S LEGACY AS THE U.S. ENTERS IRAN WAR

AFTER deferring a call on joining the Iran war by a fortnight, US President Donald Trump displayed diplomatic duplicity by dropping bunker buster bombs and firing Tomahawks on three nuclear sites, including the otherwise impregnable Fordo. By doing so, he turned his mandate on its head. In the run-up to the polls, he had positioned himself as a peace messiah, promising an end to intractable global wars in a day and ushering in prosperity. Yet, none of the wars is over, not the Russia's Ukraine invasion nor the Israel-Hamas flare-up. The only fire he claimed to have doused was the one after Pahalgam. Even on that, he finally walked back, saying two very smart people (Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Pakistan Army Chief Asim Munir) decided not to keep going with the war.

If Munir massaged his elephantine ego with a Nobel Peace Prize nomination, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu took apple polishing to another level, saying the forces of civilisation thanked him for his intervention. While Modi called Trump out for taking credit for ending the Indo-Pak conflict, Netanyahu had no compunction in giving him bragging rights for defanging Iran. Be that as it may, history may well record Trump as a scar on democracy who fell into a warmonger's trap and jettisoned peace for self-aggrandisement. By bombing Iran, he violated the rulebook on respecting sovereignty, exposed American nationals and their freight to asymmetric warfare in the Strait of Hormuz and increased human hardship as oil prices are set to go further north. There is no easy exit.

Much like the phoney claims of Saddam Hussein possessing weapons of mass destruction led to the disastrous Iraq invasion, Netanyahu and Trump asserted that Iran was days away from building a nuclear bomb despite the American intelligence department and the IAEA determining otherwise. Though the ongoing attacks further weakened Iran as a regional hegemon as Israel took out Hezbollah, crushed Hamas, choked supply lines from Syria and degraded the Houthis in Yemen, it may have solidified Tehran's intention to pursue nuclear deterrence, irrespective of the war delaying its ability for now. Assassinations of scientists cannot smoke out institutional knowledge assimilated over decades. As for India, it must carefully navigate the new geopolitical reality and adopt a position that serves the supreme national interest.

PALANQUIN BEARERS: THE ACHING BURDEN OF PIETY

TWO palanquin-bearers from Jammu and Kashmir died last week in a landslide on the rain-hit Kedarnath Yatra trek route in Uttarakhand. The pilgrim they were carrying survived with minor injuries. The debris fell on two more bearers, who escaped with injuries. The 16-km route is treacherous. Hundreds of pilgrims with comorbidities have died on this route, though porters' fatalities are rare. However, these are two deaths too many.

Thousands of poor people in their 20s to 40s shoulder palanquins (dandi) carrying pilgrims or strap pilgrim-laden wicker litters (kandi) to their backs. It demands remarkable strength and endurance. Strained lungs, weakened spines, and feet eventually force them into painful retirement. Traditionally, the porter service is linked to godliness because it fulfils infirm pilgrims' wish to reach their lord. The travesty of progressive India is also that it's the only means in the hills to transport patients or pregnant women to distant health centres. The concept dates back centuries, when the influential travelled in palanquins and brides left their parents' homes in 'dolis'. This oppressive system is no different from the still-surviving 'cultural tradition' of hand-pulled rickshaw drivers of Kolkata. In our cosmopolitan society, they are a reflection of the excluded who populate the margins of modernity. They are living contradictions of social marginalisation in present-day society, proof of the uncoupling of the right to dignity and fair labour from the economically vulnerable bottom of the pyramid at the intersection of rigid hierarchies and 21st-century reform.

By rostering and licensing the dandi-kandi porters of Uttarakhand, like Kolkata's rickshaw pullers, their indignity is both routinised and institutionalised. This archaic form of painful labour has yet to prod the government to dismantle the system. In the absence of alternative work and hunger and survival snapping at their heels, these workers plod along. When the West Bengal government decided to ban the undignified work in 2006, the rickshaw pullers resisted because the decision threatened their only means of survival. The State must ban such labour practices and offer them dignified economic rehabilitation. Their dignity is their right, not a largesse bestowed by social privilege. It is time they are offered real choices, not vague promises of progress. In her poem "Palanquin Bearers", Sarojini Naidu may have romanticised their task, but the reality is forbidding.

QUICK TAKE

RENTS ON A RAMPAGE

AFTER the massive 2023 spike following a pandemic-induced freeze, the first quarter of 2025 has reported another rental surge of 12-15 percent in Mumbai, Bengaluru and Pune, apart from sizeable appreciation in other cities. A job swell in tech and startups and growing demand for homes near tech parks caused nearly half of the spike in the premium housing bracket in the metros. The affordability factor simultaneously shifted demand to average rental segments in satellite cities, ironically causing rents to rise in these areas. The government must check artificial rent spirals by pushing for the speedy completion of delayed housing projects and helping ease infrastructural and supply-side snarls.

The spreading conflict alters the equation. The most serious threat comes from collateral damage to energy facilities or the weaponisation of oil and gas supplies

RE-SHAPING OF ENERGY AND GEOPOLITICS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SATYAJIT DAS

Former banker and the author of *The Age of Stagnation*

FINANCIAL markets and policymakers are complacent about developments in the Middle East and their effects on energy markets. The market price for oil for future delivery is trading around the mid-sixties per barrel, well below the spot price and below the average inflation-adjusted price for two decades.

Despite the growth of renewables, especially solar and wind power, oil and gas, alongside coal, remain the staple source of energy underpinning modern economies and societies. Currently, the world consumes around 100 million barrels of oil daily (around 50 percent for transport and 20 percent for petrochemicals). No significant decline is forecast due to limited alternatives for heavy transportation and as a chemical feedstock. Natural gas is around 23 percent of the world's total energy consumption and provides a quarter of global electricity.

The Gulf region is the world's most important energy producer, accounting for around 50 percent of proven reserves. It produces around 33 percent of the world's oil and approximately 17 percent of natural gas. Any severe disruption would affect availability and price flowing through to economies.

The absence of concern comes from a perception of ample supplies. In the lead-up to the current crisis, OPEC, driven by Saudi pressure, increased output, causing sharp declines in price exacerbated by slowing demand from decelerating economic activity, particularly in China. In a repeat of 2015, Saudi Arabia sought to punish producers who exceeded quotas agreed upon between member states. It may have been to placate President Donald Trump, who has consistently sought lower oil prices. Saudi Arabia's objective is to maintain its market share as low prices make US shale oil and gas uncompetitive and accelerate the use of a potentially stranded resource.

SOURAV ROY

The spreading conflict alters the equation. There is increased stockpiling and consumption—military aircraft are not designed for fuel efficiency. The most serious threat comes from collateral damage to energy facilities or the weaponisation of oil and gas supplies.

Israel, whose declared objective is destroying Iran's nuclear capabilities and unseating its leaders, may target oil and gas facilities to increase pressure on the regime. Iran exports up to 2 million barrels of oil and refined petroleum products daily (around 2 percent of total oil supply). This loss may not be covered by other producers whose capacities are already strained due to lack of infrastructure, in part because of under-investment in the shift away from fossil fuels. Only Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Russia, whose capacity is hobbled by sanctions, may have actual additional available capacity.

The US entry into the war has changed its dynamics. Iran may seek a total or selective blockade of the Strait of Hormuz—the chokepoint of global energy supplies—through which a fifth of the world's oil supply passes. A long-standing rule in the Persian Gulf states is that if Iran is under threat, it will seek to prevent regional competitors from selling their oil. Even though free passage is still theoretically possible, many shipping companies are already reluctant to transit the narrow waterway due to insurance concerns. The charter costs of large crude carriers (capable of carrying 2 million barrels of oil) from the Gulf to China have more than doubled (from around $20,000 to just under $48,000 per day).

Another option is to attack other Gulf nations' oil facilities, which has happened previously. American and Israeli military bases in these countries increase this risk. Iranian-backed domestic militias, already in place, could undertake these attacks. Iraq, which supplies over 4 million barrels of oil per day, is vulnerable due to the location of its infrastructure in Basra, close to Iran, and the history between the two nations.

Iran will be reluctant to attack Gulf neighbours with whom they have carefully re-established relations and a modus vivendi over recent years. This suggests another option—a coordinated oil embargo on the US, Europe and supporters of Israel. While Arab unity is elusive and never guaranteed, there is a historical precedent—the 1973 oil embargo by Arab members of OPEC in response to the Yom Kippur War and the US support for Israel.

The crucial players are West-leaning Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Qatar. Despite competition with Iran for regional influence and the Sunni and Shia schism, there are reasons that these nations may act.

First, they fear regional instability if the present Iranian regime is toppled. Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria highlight the West's lack of staying power and appetite for casualties and cost to engineer the outcome they state. Secondly, Western denial of Iran's right to even peaceful nuclear capabilities affects the ambitions of at least Saudi Arabia and the UAE. It leaves the region subservient to Israel as its only nuclear-capable actor consistent with Washington's policy to preserve Israeli military superiority.

Thirdly, Israel and its supporters' desire for regime change in Iran and potential replacement by the scions of the Shah will alarm Gulf monarchies because they will exist at the behest of foreign powers and can be displaced at the whim of the West. Given the volatile foreign policies of the US and its allies, including their backing of the ill-fated Arab Spring, this possibility is non-trivial. As Hosni Mubarak discovered, US support exists until it doesn't.

Fourthly, America's confiscation of Russian assets, tariffs, and economic policies have created unease about Western investments in the Middle East. The Gulf states have already begun to favour domestic projects over foreign investments.

Finally, the Gulf population, excepting the rulers and their acolytes, is predominantly pro-Palestinian and anti-American. Siding with Israel and the West is existentially dangerous for the internally fractious ruling families, irrespective of their repressive domestic policies.

Higher oil prices would financially benefit producers struggling to balance budgets at current levels. An embargo which did not affect their energy supplies would be supported by non-aligned nations, who oppose the wars in Gaza and Iran and Western interference.

Israel and its allies should remember Thucydides' Melian Dialogue, which records Athens' conquest of Melos. The Melians unsuccessfully resisted, suffering horrific losses. Athens believed that "the strong do what they can and the weak suffer what they must", and they could act with impunity because their power was complete. Less than three years later, Athens suffered a military disaster in Sicily from which they never recovered.

(Views are personal)

FINDING THE SOUL OF INDIA THROUGH A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

THIS week, I came across a book that I read last year and its value struck me afresh. Particularly because I am far from 'ashamed' of knowing the English language, despite the odd political opinion in Delhi on the very many Indians who freely inhabit the unparalleled depth and range of the Anglophone world. The book I found was the late scholar-economist Bibek Debroy's last published volume, *Sacred Songs—the Mahabharata's Many Gitas*, devoted to the 24 gitas in the epic apart from the *Bhagavad Gita*. It joined a luminous list of translations from Indian scripture by other scholars. People like Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, who rendered the Bhagavad Gita and the sixteen principal *Upanishads* into English; C Rajagopalachari, whose abridged English translations of Valmiki's *Ramayana* and Vyasa's *Mahabharata* in the 1950s are still very much around in new editions; and Kamala Subramaniam, who produced monumental English translations of the *Ramayana*, *Mahabharata* and *Srimad Bhagavatam*.

The value of such works is that they used the English language to repossess Indian scripture and make it accessible to the millions of Indians trapped in the English language. People who still longed to know their heritage better but had to get on with life, study, find jobs, sustain family responsibilities, all of which consumed their time.

For these millions, people like Dr Radhakrishnan, C Rajagopalachari, Kamala Subramaniam, Bibek Debroy, Ramesh Menon and a score of others performed a valuable public service. Through their labours, they gave the soul of India back to those cut off by history. To look at just Debroy's prodigious output, he translated the unabridged version of Vyasa's *Mahabharata* into English, in a series of 10 volumes. He also translated the *Bhagavad Gita*, the *Harivamsa* (an abridged Mahabharata also credited to Vyasa), the *Vedas*, no less, and Valmiki's *Srimad Ramayanam* in three volumes.

His services to the Puranas were no less monumental. He translated the *Bhagavata Purana* in three volumes, the *Markandeya Purana* in one volume, which contains the *Devi Mahatmyaham* recited every year during Durga Puja, the *Brahma Purana* in two volumes, the *Vishnu Purana* in one volume, the *Shiva Purana* in three volumes and the *Brahmanda Purana* in two volumes. Besides Manmatha Nath Dutt (1855–1912), he is the only other person to have translated both the *Mahabharata* and the *Ramayana* in unabridged form into English.

For his translations, he was conferred with the Ramakrishna Gopal Bhandarkar Memorial Award in July 2023 by the venerable Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune, which put the entire *Mahabharata* together in a critical edition. This edition was prepared with the painstaking efforts of committed scholars over nearly five decades, consulting 1,259 manuscripts. The completed critical edition of the *Mahabharata* was finally released in 10 weighty volumes on September 22, 1966 by Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, the then President of India.

It is this milestone Sanskrit text that Debroy gamely translated into English in the

PIXABAY

Bibek Debroy's *Sacred Songs—the Mahabharata's Many Gitas* is one in a luminous list of translations, using English to re-possess ancient spiritual texts and thereby filling the God-sized hole left in many Indian hearts because of the educational disconnect with their heritage

service of modern Indians. Written simply and accessibly with footnotes, Debroy's labours of love found favour with the Indian public for their reverse engineering, using the English language to re-possess these ancient spiritual texts and thereby filling the God-sized hole left in many Indian hearts because of the educational disconnect with their heritage. Debroy's last legacy to us was *Sacred Songs—the Mahabharata's Many Gitas*, released late last year. A dense, layered book of 684 pages, it has 25 chapters, each devoted to a gita, 24 from the *Mahabharata*, with the last being the *Pandava Gita*, which exists outside the *Mahabharata*. The *Bhagavad Gita* or *Song of God*, not included here, is of course THE *gita* of *gitas*. But these other *gitas* bejewel the unabridged *Mahabharata*, a *gita* being a philosophical or advisory passage that can be sung or chanted.

The first *gita* in this volume is the *Shounaka Gita*. This is named for an ancient *rishi* in the the forest of Naimisharanya (today's Neemsar in modern Uttar Pradesh). Shounaka advises a depressed Yudhishthira in the *Vana Parva* or forest section of the *Mahabharata*. He tries to implant a sense of detachment in Yudhishthira, saying that attachment is the cause of all misery, that Yudhishthira should ideally "Perform *karma*, but also renounce it." This is popularly understood to mean, 'Keep going anyway because that's what life is about'. The *Dharma Vyadha Gita* is from a beloved Indian story, also from the *Vana Parva*. Rishi Markandeya tells the Pandavas how a butcher taught a Brahmin *dharmic* righteousness. That he was a butcher is of no consequence, for that, too, is a genuine profession in society, and a butcher is as capable of *dharmic* righteousness, in this case more so, than the Brahmin. It's a treat to be able to access their actual conversation through Debroy's lucid text.

The *Nahusha Gita* is a dialogue between Yudhishthira and Nahusha, an ancestor of the Pandavas, who was expelled from heaven and cursed to take the form of a python by Rishi Agastya. He coils himself around Bhima, and Yudhishthira must set him free by conversing with Nahusha. When Nahusha asks who is a Brahmin, Yudhishthira responds that a Brahmin "is one in whom truthfulness, charity, forgiveness, good conduct, lack of cruelty and compassion can be seen". Not otherwise. Which, like the grand old *Upanishads*, posits categorically that 'caste' is indicated by character, not birth.

This pattern of outright social subversion and valorising moral character high above the accident of birth comes across repeatedly in these ancient *gitas*, which amazes and gladdens the modern reader. But for such translations, we would never know what our scriptures actually said and how consistently.

(Views are personal)

(shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Independent stance

Ref: *Global bloodbath has no referee* (Jun 22). India must adopt a bold and independent foreign policy that prioritises national interests over western hegemony. Iran has historically been a reliable partner, especially in terms of energy security. For our growing economy, uninterrupted and affordable oil supplies from Iran are vital.

K J Haroon Basha, Tirupathur

KBC magic

Ref: *Silver anniversary of a marriage made for TV* (Jun 22). In its 25th year, Kaun Banega Crorepati captures the spirit and identity of India. The program flourished by broadcasting authentic interactions with its contestants. Beyond mere entertainment, it showcases the resilience, aspirations, dreams and hardships of ordinary citizens.

N R Jagannath, Bengaluru

AI-proofing

Ref: *They are here: The rise and rise of AI robots* (Jun 22). With big tech companies like Nvidia, Tesla and Amazon leading in investments, robots are the new normal. This raises serious concerns about job displacement and an updated social contract. Upskilling and welfare schemes must be formulated for those who may lose jobs.

Sridevi Tejaswani K, Hyderabad

Media watchdog

Ref: *38 kids of hooch victims get pending state allowance* (Jun 22). It is heartening to note that the kin of the victims got their pending monthly allowance. Democracy has in fact come to a full circle with the fourth estate reporting the lacuna in actions of the government and the latter immediately salvaging the issue.

S Ramakrishnasayee, Chennai

Karnataka's harmony

Ref: *Chart a path out of dark woods* (Jun 21). All stakeholders must come together with a shared commitment to peaceful coexistence. Social media has been key in fuelling the fire. Politicians should avoid amplifying minor incidents and solve people's woes.

S Kanthimathinathan, e-mail

Nuke parley

Ref: *Ayatollah names his successors, army brass replacements* (Jun 22). Israel seems to be on the winning side this time in contrast to 1967's Six-Day War when it took a humiliating blow from a coalition of Arab nations. Iran should accept the US's offer and resume talks on a nuclear agreement.

N A Joseph, Kottayam

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Sudhanshu Trivedi @SudhanshuTrived
7 fake news in 15 days – the Congress again proved it is Fake News' factory. Lying and spreading confusion is in Congress' DNA. Major basis of its politics is misleading

Supriya Shrinate @SupriyaShrinate
61,000 MSMEs have closed in last 4 years... Our dependence on China has constantly increased, with trade deficit of $ 100 billion. Know the truth behind 'Make in India'

Manoj Kumar Jha @manojkjhadu
Brazen aggression in the form of unprovoked bombing by the US on Iran is not just a regional provocation—it is a dangerous escalation with profound implications

US STRIKES A WORRY FOR REGION, INDIA

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

FOR the first time since the 1979 Iranian Revolution, a US President has deployed Air Force assets to strike major targets inside Iran, a move without precedent in over four decades of the US-Iran tensions.

The American airstrikes targeting Natanz, Isfahan, and the fortified Fordow facility represent a dramatic escalation in the region's tensions. This could reshape the geopolitical landscape of the West Asia, with wide-ranging consequences for diplomacy, regional stability, global oil markets, and India's energy security.

What Are Iran's Options? Many possible responses, each fraught with risk:

Diplomatic De-escalation

Iran could return to negotiations, potentially under the framework of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which the Trump administration had previously abandoned. However, this route faces resistance from Iran's hardliners, who view the US strikes as a humiliation and betrayal of diplomacy. Tehran could also withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Military Counterstrike

A more dangerous path is retaliation. Iran's military and political leadership have warned of striking US military bases and naval assets in the region. Hossein Shariatmadari, editor of the hardline Kayhan newspaper, stated ominously: "It is now our turn."

Iran has short-range ballistic missiles, drones, and naval assets that could be used in asymmetric attacks. The US, anticipating a reaction, has dispersed its forces and bolstered regional air defences.

Closure of Strait of Hormuz

Iran's most potent non-military leverage is the Strait of Hormuz—a narrow maritime chokepoint through which over 20 million barrels of oil and a large volume of LNG pass daily. Iranian lawmakers have proposed closing the strait, which could trigger an oil price surge.

But this move would also harm Iran. Its own oil exports pass through Hormuz, and closure would likely provoke military responses from Gulf Arab states and further Western sanctions. Still, the threat alone could cause energy markets to panic.

What's at Stake for the US?

Trump's strike risks dragging the US into a broader regional conflict. His administration argues that the action was necessary due to stalled diplomacy and Iran's refusal to halt nuclear activities. However, the Iranian Foreign Ministry has called the strikes a "heinous crime," urging the UN to condemn what it says is a breach of international law. Trump has hinted that Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei could be a future target if Iran retaliates. This statement, experts warn, could set the stage for full-scale war.

Effect on Global Oil, India

The Strait of Hormuz, situated between Oman and Iran, links the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea. It is considered the world's most critical oil chokepoint due to the vast quantities of oil that pass through it. It is vital to global energy security. According to the US. Energy Information Administration (EIA), over one-fifth of global oil and LNG flows through this narrow passage. A disruption would spike shipping costs, insurance premiums, and energy prices.

India, which imports over 80% of its crude oil, relies on Middle Eastern supplies. While New Delhi diversifies with imports from Russia, the US, and Africa, the real challenge lies in managing volatile prices rather than shortages. A crisis in the Gulf will likely inflate India's import bills, worsen inflation, and slow down the economies.

Iran's Long Game Look Like?

Iran may choose to delay its retaliation. Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi hinted at a measured, calculated response when he warned of "everlasting consequences." Tehran has a history of asymmetrical warfare and could use proxies or cyber capabilities to strike US assets over time, avoiding immediate escalation while exacting a cost. With diplomacy stalled and military engagement initiated, Iran's next move could shape not just regional stability but also the global economy.

EXPLAINER

Kerala woman appeals for help as Navy ship goes silent off Iran

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

APARNA Suresh hasn't heard from her husband for seven days. Each hour that passes without any information deepens the fear of the family.

Her husband, Avinash Amal Kumar (26), is aboard the Mirage, a merchant navy vessel currently off the coast of Iran — a region increasingly volatile as tensions between Iran, Israel, and the United States continue to flare.

"My husband has told me that there are 23 crew members onboard. Many of them, I believe are from South India," says Aparna. "My husband told me a week ago that they were planning to sign off because of the Iran-Israel war. That was the last update I got. Since then, it's only silence."

Aparna, who lives in Thiruvananthapuram, said she has made repeated appeals to the company managing the ship — Deewine Ship Management and Marine Services Ltd — but has received no clear answers. "They said they're not aware of the full situation. I don't know what's happening. All I want is for my husband and the others to be brought home safely," she said.

She also said Avinash's father, a heart patient, is in hospital. "Avinash is the only son and its a pretty bad situation at home."

The company's manager, Vivek Kumar, told this newspaper that 23 crew members are on board. "The foreign owner of the vessel has been informed. There are about 250 merchant vessels in the area. We are in touch and hope to update all crew members at the earliest," he said.

The Mirage is one of many vessels currently operating in the Persian Gulf, a region now under heightened military surveillance and risk. On Friday, U.S. forces carried out strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities, deepening fears of wider escalation.

23 crew members onboard

The company's manager, Vivek Kumar said 23 crew members are on board. "The foreign owner of the vessel has been informed. There are about 250 merchant vessels in the area. We are in touch and hope to update all crew members at the earliest," he said. On Friday, U.S. forces carried out strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities, deepening fears of wider escalation.

Op Sindhu continues, 600 more Indians evacuated

Modi thanks President Pezeshkian for aiding repatriation efforts

S LALITHA @ New Delhi

INDIA on Sunday evacuated 602 more citizens arriving in two flights from the Iranian city of Mashhad, as tensions continue to escalate between Iran and Israel. The first batch arrived in New Delhi at 4:30 pm on a special chartered flight, taking the total number of Indians brought home under Operation Sindhu to 1,719.

"Total 311 Indian nationals arrived in New Delhi on a special flight from Mashhad at 4:30 pm on June 22," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. Another flight carrying 291 students landed around 11:30 pm.

Prime Minister Modi expressed gratitude to Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian for his support in facilitating the repatriation efforts. According to an official readout, Modi thanked Pezeshkian for Iran's continued assistance in ensuring the safety and return of the Indian community.

Meanwhile, for the first time, 18 students from South India figured in the repatriation flights from the war-torn Iran. Two Mahan Air flights arriving from Mashhad city in northeastern Iran would bring back 602 students.

Iran's private airline, Mahan Air, has been bringing the students to New Delhi after Iran opened up its airspace for these flights on June 20.

An official said, "For the first time on Sunday, we had students from the southern states reaching Delhi. In the first flight with 311 students, which reached IGIA at 4 pm, we had eight students from Karnataka and one from Kerala. In the second flight which will reach the airport by 11.30 pm, two students from Telangana and four from Karnataka are arriving."

A majority of the students evacuated are from Jammu & Kashmir. "All the students are pursuing their MBBS degree and are drawn from different universities spread across Iran," he said.

On June 19, the day the evacuation operation commenced, 110 students had to be brought by two flights from India's private airline Indigo from Armenia, a neighbouring country where they had reached by road.

Giving a break-up of the evacuation, he said that 223 students were evacuated on June 20 while 600 were brought home on June 20, and 602 on June 22. "On June 21 alone, a flight carrying 184 pilgrims were brought to Delhi by an early morning flight," he added.

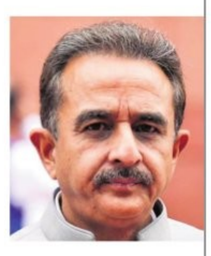
The evacuation flights are expected to continue for a couple of more days, with two flights set to arrive daily.

Air India not to fly over Persian Gulf region

Due to escalating tensions in the Gulf region, Air India will be avoiding some portion of airspace over the Persian Gulf. The airline has already stopped operations in Iran, Iraq, Israel and Pakistan airspace. An Air India spokesperson said, "As a proactive measure, we will be progressively avoiding the use of certain airspace over the Persian Gulf in the coming days, opting instead for alternative paths for flights to destinations including the UAE, Qatar, Oman and Kuwait."

INSIDER TRACK

Message from B'desh National Day



Despite recent unease in India-Bangladesh ties, India chose political symbolism over bureaucratic representation. On June 19, the government sent a clear signal by ensuring political-level representation at Bangladesh's National Day celebration in Delhi. In a gesture that didn't go unnoticed, Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh attended the event as chief guest, underlining that the shared "bonds of history, culture, and language" still matter. The evening also marked the first public appearance of Bangladesh's new High Commissioner, Riaz Hamidullah, who stepped into the spotlight at a sensitive time in bilateral relations. Singh struck a hopeful note, calling for mutually beneficial cooperation and deeper connectivity between the neighbours. Hamidullah, in turn, evoked the shared legacy of 1971, reminding the audience of India's critical support during Bangladesh's liberation war. "We are neighbours, partners in progress," he said, keeping it simple — and pointed.

Search on for next G20 Sherpa

With Amitabh Kant quitting the government after 45 years of service, the government has initiated the process of appointing the country's new G20 Sherpa. Sources indicate that the name is expected to be announced within the next couple of weeks. The names doing the rounds in the power corridors include Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal and former Union Minister Suresh Prabhu. Goyal's name is in vogue due to his experience in handling international trade-related engagements, as well as his role as the Sherpa before Kant entered the scene. Prabhu also served as India's G20 Sherpa. However, a section within the government believes that an IFS officer may be considered for the post, as the new Sherpa will face a tough challenge in the backdrop of the prevailing geopolitical situation, particularly in West Asia. Other senior functionaries who held the position include IAS officer Shaktikanta Das and economist Arvind Panagariya.

Cong's unending Tharoor woes

On a fresh assignment, Thiruvananthapuram MP Shashi Tharoor appears to be gaining clout in the Modi government and political circles with his impressive diplomatic skills. Currently, on a two-week diplomatic mission to various countries, Tharoor continues to keep the Congress on edge about his next move. While the Congress High Command has not made any effort to reach out to him after his multi-nation tour on Operation Sindoor, the differences between the two camps appear to have only widened. Tharoor's close associates say the MP will 'sit and decide' his future course of action upon his return. His patience is running thin, a leader confided. More 'disgruntled senior leaders share similar sentiments', said the aide.

Surveys galore in poll-bound Bihar

The Congress appears to be grappling with a 'problem of plenty' over election surveys in poll-bound Bihar. While survey teams led by master strategist Sunil Kanugolu are already at work, Congress Bihar in-charge Krishna Allavaru has deployed another team to conduct a door-to-door survey to gauge public sentiment on the selection of candidates and other campaign-related decisions. Congress insiders attribute it to the friction between Kanugolu and Allavaru. It is no secret that the two leaders enjoy proximity to the top brass. Both survey findings are to be presented to the Congress High Command for a final decision on candidate selection and other issues. However, there is internal disquiet among some ranks that poll surveys have become a profitable business for leaders and that the AICC is spending a considerable amount of funds beyond what is necessary for effective monitoring and oversight.

Minority outreach hiccups

Congress looks to be struggling to maintain internal cohesion as it attempts to weave an effective minority outreach strategy in poll-bound Bihar. A meeting of the Muslim leaders from Bihar and Delhi last week ran into rough weather when several members questioned the party's strategy for Muslims and selection of the right candidates. Chaired by AICC minority department chief Imran Pratapgarhi, the meeting at the party's new headquarters, Indira Bhawan, drew nearly 40 leaders in attendance. Seventeen percent of Bihar's population is Muslim. A senior leader, a JNU alumnus, pointed out that a sitting MLA, the only Kulhaiya Muslim from the Seemanchal region, had not been invited to the meeting. Some members also alleged that there are efforts to replace this MLA with another close to CLP leader, Shakeel Ahmad Khan. The Seemanchal region, with a 47 percent Muslim population, comprises 24 assembly seats. "If the party cannot do justice to its Muslim leaders, how will it gain the confidence of the community?" asked a leader.

After US tariff, Iran-Israel war casts shadow over basmati rice exports

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

INDIAN basmati exporters, still reeling from the shock of a 26% tariff imposed by the US government—which is currently on hold—are facing double trouble due to the outbreak of the Israel-Iran war.

This conflict has created uncertainty in exports, resulting in stuck consignments, delayed payments, and falling prices. Notably, 15% of India's total basmati exports are destined for Iran, making it the second-largest importer after Saudi Arabia. This surplus of basmati could potentially flood the domestic market.

The crisis is likely to affect Punjab, the country's leading producer of basmati rice, with a total production share of 40%, followed by Haryana and other states.

In the 2023-24 fiscal, a total of 59.42 LMT of basmati rice was exported from the country: 7 LMT to Iran, 11 LMT to Saudi Arabia, 8 LMT to Iraq, 3 LMT to Yaman and 3 LMT to the US and remaining to other countries. Thus, Iran is the second-highest importer of Basmati from India after Saudi Arabia.

Ranjit Singh Jossan, vice-president of the Basmati Rice Miller and Exporter Association, told this newspaper that since the Israel-Iran war broke out, basmati exports to Iran have completely stopped, as operations at the Bandra Abbas port in Iran have been suspended.

"We export around one million tons of basmati to Iran, which is approximately 15 to 16% of India's total global exports. Due to the present crises, now around ₹3,000 crore worth of export orders are hanging in the balance," he said.

"We are unable to contact the importers in Iran as they are mainly based in the country's capital city, Tehran. There is no clarity on the payments to our exporters. Thus, there is anxiety among the exporters as the Iranian currency might further devalue against the US dollar, making the Indian exporters bear the financial losses," he said.

A farmer, Sanampreet Mahrok of Fazilka district, said that they were hoping to get good prices, but under the present circumstances, the rates could fall by ₹500 per quintal for both PUSA 1509 and 1121, as well as other variants. R.S. Sachdeva, former chairperson of the Punjab chapter of PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said that if the situation continues with the arrival of a new crop amidst an already saturated market, prices will crash further.

AIR TURBULENCE

DGCA to revise norms for rough weather operations

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

TO ensure safe flight operations during the monsoon season, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has come out with a revised circular highlighting additional safety measures and guidelines for airlines and pilots.

The guidelines are in light of an incident involving an Indigo flight from Delhi to Srinagar which was caught in a ferocious hailstorm enroute endangering the lives of 227 passengers. It had a miraculous escape with just the nose cone damaged.

The conditions under which flight crew are expected to consider diversion, return, or rerouting due to adverse weather, including severe turbulence, windshear, icing, obstructive thunderstorms, or sudden visibility deterioration have been detailed by the regulator.

The DGCA, for the first time addresses the issue of Ice Crystal Icing, a phenomenon associated with convective weather systems. "Pilots are advised to navigate around such areas laterally rather than climbing or descending through them in line with global best practices," it said. Convective weather refers to vertical movement of air which causes heat and moisture transfer. This can lead to varied weather conditions, including severe thunderstorms.

Urging operators and pilots to adopt a conservative approach when dealing with such weather conditions, the regulator said that early action enhances flight safety. "Pilots are encouraged to plan deviations early and maintain a minimum 20 nautical miles upwind distance from convective activity. Flying beneath thunderstorm clouds is discouraged due to the elevated risk of wind shear, lightning, and hail," it said.

Airports' safety audits in the offing: Aviation DG

S LALITHA @ New Delhi

A team of DGCA and security officers have completed audits in Mumbai and Delhi airports.

Faiz Ahmed Kidwai, DGCA Director General

Financial penalty

Non-compliance with audit findings will lead to financial penalty or revocation of licence, said officials.

THE Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has launched a Comprehensive Special Audit to strengthen aviation safety across the country. It is undertaking a 360-degree evaluation of all aviation entities.

Director General of DGCA Faiz Ahmed Kidwai told this newspaper, "This Comprehensive Special Audit is a holistic evaluation of the aviation industry. All primary aviation entities including scheduled, non-scheduled and private operators, Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul organisations, Flying Training Organisations, Air Navigation Service Provider, Aerodrome Operators and Ground Handling Agencies are being covered under it."

Another aviation official said, "A team of DGCA and security officers have completed such an audit in Mumbai and Delhi airports. We will be covering Bengaluru, Chennai and Kolkata, among other major airports." The findings are confidential, he added.

The audited entities must submit a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) to the DGCA within a fortnight of the findings, Kidwai said. Non-compliance with audit findings or failure to implement the CAP will result in varied actions, including financial penalty or revocation of licence, he added.

DRASTIC STEP

A 48-year-old psychiatrist allegedly took his own life by taking an overdose of medicine in Maharashtra's Akola district, police said on Sunday. The victim was rushed to a hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

2 WORKERS DIE AFTER INHALING POISONOUS GAS IN UP

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	27	26	Mumbai	29	27
Bhopal	27	23	Panaji	29	26
Jaipur	31	27	Patna	33	28
Amritsar	36	28	Lucknow	32	27
Chennai	36	29	Port Blair	30	27
Kolkata	32	27	Imphal	27	23
Srinagar	32	19	Chandigarh	33	26

● Agencies warn against possible terror strike by Pahalgam perpetrators ● 'The arrested said attackers were Pak nationals with LeT link'

Amarnath Yatra security beefed up after intel alert

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

SECURITY for the Amarnath Yatra has been stepped up after intelligence agencies issued an alert cautioning against a possible terror attack during the pilgrimage, sources said.

Intelligence agencies issued the alert last week in view of the terrorists behind the April 22 Pahalgam attack still at large. "The inputs have been shared with ground troops and local police units to make their arrangements for the Yatra full-proof," a source said.

In its report to the government, the intelligence agencies have named The Resistance Front (TRF), a frontal organization of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), as they suggested that the outfit, which was behind the Pahalgam attack, is planning a repeat during the annual pilgrimage beginning July 3, the source said.

Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi reviewed the security in the Kashmir region and assessed preparedness for the Amarnath Yatra, the Army said on Sunday. Top leadership of the security grid for the Amarnath Yatra said forces have been "strategically deployed along the route to ensure rapid response capabilities across all key points."

Still, there has been growing concern among the forces that the Pahalgam attackers are still absconding, the source said. "We suspect that they could be hiding in Pir Panjal jungles and may plan another attack," the source added.

Pahalgam is one of the routes for pilgrims to head towards the holy cave and every day 15,000 people are expected to use the route. Another is Baltal route, which will also see 15,000 people taking to reach holy cave.

Meanwhile, in light of the alert, senior government functionaries are closely monitoring the situation, officials said, adding that last week Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan and CRPF Director General GP Singh visited Jammu and Kashmir to assess Yatra security preparations.

Due to the heightened threat, the area has been declared a no-fly zone, and helicopter services for pilgrims have been suspended this year. The entire region has been divided into smaller security zones and further divided into pockets with multiple agencies deployed for comprehensive protection, officials said. An advisory has also been issued for all those planning to come for Yatra. It says the pilgrims have to reach the Holy Cave Shrine on foot or avail of the services of ponies and palkis in view of the area being declared a no-fly zone.

Army chief reviews pilgrimage preparedness

Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi reviewed the security in the Kashmir region and assessed preparedness for the Amarnath Yatra, the Army said on Sunday. Top leadership of the security grid for the Amarnath Yatra said forces have been "strategically deployed along the route to ensure rapid response capabilities across all key points." Still, there has been growing concern among the forces that the Pahalgam attackers are still absconding, the source said.

Army man from Punjab, associate held for spying

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

AN Army personnel posted in Jammu and his aide have been arrested for their alleged involvement in espionage activities linked to Pakistan's spy agency ISI, Punjab Police said on Sunday.

DGP Gaurav Yadav said one of the accused has been identified as Gurpreet Singh, a resident of Dhariwal in Amritsar serving in the Army in Jammu. His associate has been identified as Sahil Masih of Dhariwal. Till date 12 people have been arrested from Punjab on espionage charges.

"Preliminary investigation revealed that Gurpreet was in direct contact with ISI operatives and is suspected of sharing sensitive and confidential information via pen drives. The key ISI handler involved in the case has been identified as Rana Javed," Yadav said.

He said two mobile phones containing virtual numbers, reportedly used to communicate with ISI operatives, have been recovered from the possession of both the accused. Further probe is on, he said.

SSP (Amritsar Rural) Maninder Singh said Gurpreet, recruited by the Army in 2016, exploited his official position to collect, store and transmit classified military information via pen drives and discs.

NIA arrests two locals for 'harbouring' terrorists behind Pahalgam attack

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

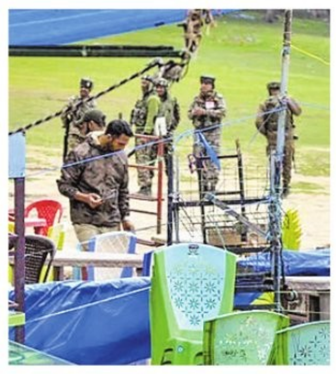
IN a breakthrough, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested two men for harbouring the terrorists who had carried out the Pahalgam attack that left 26 people dead, the agency said on Sunday.

The two have been identified as Parvaiz Ahmad Jothar from Batkote, Pahalgam and Bashir Ahmad Jothar of Hill Park, Pahalgam. "The duo during questioning disclosed the identities of the three terrorists involved in the attack. They have also confirmed that they were Pakistani nationals affiliated to the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)," an NIA spokesperson said.

Parvaiz and Bashir had knowingly harboured the three armed terrorists at a seasonal hut) at Hill Park before the attack, the spokesperson said. "The two men had provided food, shelter and logistical support to the terrorists, who on April 22 afternoon selectively killed the tourists on the basis of their religious identity, making it one of the most gruesome terrorist attacks ever," he said. "Both Parvaiz and Bashir have been arrested under Section 19 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. Further investigation in the case is going on," the spokesperson added.

Security forces suspect involvement of four terrorists -- three Pakistanis Hashim Musa alias Suleiman, Ali Bhai alias Talha Bhai and Asif Fauji ,and local terrorist Abid Hussain Thoker, a resident of Anantnag -- in the Pahalgam attack. Police have announced a bounty of ₹20 lakh on the head of the terrorists involved in the Pahalgam attack and pasted their posters with sketches in south Kashmir.

The NIA has taken over investigation of the case from police and Central agency officials are camping in Pahalgam for investigations. NIA chief Sadanand Vasant Date has also visited the attack site to review the pace of investigations. The J&K government has decided to establish a memorial in memory of the 26 victims near attack site at Baisaran in Pahalgam.



MUMBAI DIARY

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI
Our correspondent in Maharashtra
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Congress high command has the final word

After politically low-key Harshvardhan Sapkal was recently appointed the Maharashtra Congress chief, many believed his 'closeness' with the high command may have had a major role in the appointment. Now, the same Sapkal is finding it difficult to place his 'confidants' at key posts in the state Congress unit. He recently decided to remove incumbent Maha Cong social media head Vishal Muttemwar and replace with his 'person of choice'. Here, Sapkal made an error; he went through with the decision without informing the national social media head and state incharge. Therefore, the file for appointing a new social media head is stuck in the corridors of Delhi.

Shinde confidant returns to real estate business

Dy CM Eknath Shinde's 'Man Friday', Thane-based developer Ajay Ashar, has decided to alienate from his political patron and focus on his sprawling real estate business. Ashar apparently had a key role in lifting Shinde to the CM's seat. He was among the main 'negotiators' with the BJP top brass and even shouldered the responsibilities of the high-cost 'takeover' in Maharashtra. As reward, Ashar was appointed as vice-chairman of Maharashtra Institute for Transformation (MITRA) – a financial planning body. But after Shinde was handed the second fiddle in the new govt, Ashar was removed from the role. Thus, Ashar has once again found time for his real estate ventures.

CIDCO's 55th anniversary event goes overboard

Maharashtra government's City and Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO) recently celebrated its 55th Foundation Day, highlighting the organisation's global standards in urban planning and development. As part of the bash, several CIDCO higher-ups were reportedly provided 55gm gold value coins embossed with the 55th foundation day mark. The buzz was that these heavy coins were put on the CIDCO exchequer under different heads.
Unfortunately, the CIDCO, in charge of the Navi Mumbai airport, is struggling to pay the salary of its own employees. The cash-rich board is allegedly being looted by its top officers by inflating local land prices.

Mortal remains of AI crew member arrive in Manipur

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

THE mortal remains of Kongbrailatpam Nganthoi Sharma (22), one of the two cabin crew members from Manipur who tragically lost their lives in the recent Air India plane crash in Ahmedabad, were brought home on Sunday. Thousands of people lined up on both sides of the roads to pay tributes to the native of Thoubal district.

Her mortal remains, accompanied by her father and elder sister who had travelled to Ahmedabad for DNA identification, arrived at Imphal International Airport aboard an IndiGo flight.

A large number of mourners, including her family members, relatives, Chief Secretary PK Singh, Director General of Police Rajiv Singh, and other senior officials, were present at the airport to receive her. In a Facebook post, the airport wrote, "After a long, sleepless day and night filled with sorrow and aching hearts, our beloved (L) Ms Nganthoi Sharma Kongbrailatpam has finally returned home, her final journey completed, as she arrived at Imphal International Airport aboard an IndiGo flight."

Nganthoi had joined Air India three years ago while she was pursuing an undergraduate course.

6 Jaipur cops suspended after youth's suicide in custody sparks protests

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

THE case of a youth allegedly committing suicide in a police station in Jaipur has rocked Rajasthan. The family members of the deceased sat on a dharna outside the mortuary of the SMS Hospital on Sunday, demanding strict action against those responsible.

Taking immediate action, the Jaipur Police Commissioner suspended six policemen, including the station in-charge (CI). Manish Pandey was picked up in a case of bike theft in Jaipur's Sadar area on Saturday morning, but late at night, he hanged himself in the police station. According to police, while being interrogated, he was left alone for some time when he hanged himself with a towel kept in the room.

The sentry alerted the police staff and brought him down from the noose. Pandey was taken to Banipark Satellite Hospital where the doctors referred him to SMS. He succumbed during treatment. Pandey's family, however, suspects that he died due to torture in police custody.

The police kept the body in the SMS hospital for postmortem, but the family members sat on a dharna outside the mortuary.

Congress leader and former state cabinet minister Pratap Singh Khachariyawas also reached the dharna spot and joined the family.

Given the gravity of the incident, Jaipur Police Commissioner Biju George took immediate action and suspended six policemen, including the station in charge (CI). Also, the police department has ordered a special probe and a judicial inquiry into the case is also expected.

Police say that Manish was addicted to alcohol and has been involved in thefts in the past. In contrast, the family alleges that he died due to police negligence and third-degree torture.

Victim's wife to get job

An agreement was reached between the family and the authorities. The government accepted all their key demands. Financial assistance of ₹10 lakh is being provided through social organisations, with the state offering additional help. The suspended officer will face further action, and victim's wife will be given a job on a contractual basis.

No respite for Maoists even during monsoon, Shah warns

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday asserted that the Maoists will not be given any respite and breathing space even during the monsoon season, the period when the Red rebels are bit relaxed in Chhattisgarh.

Amid the ongoing success of security forces against the left-wing extremists in the state, the union minister, on a two-day visit to the state, in a forewarning said that during the rainy season the security forces will continue with same vigour on anti-Maoist front to meet the goal of eliminating Naxals from the country by March 31, 2026. Shah took the occasion to appeal to the 'misguided youths' associated with banned outfit CPI (Maoist) to take the benefits of the state government's 'lucrative' surrender and rehabilitation policy.

"Lay down your arms and join the mainstream as your secured future. You will never get a better opportunity. Trust the government. Many have surrendered and I assure them that the Centre and the state government will surely provide what have been promised", affirmed Shah. He appreciated the Chhattisgarh government's role in expediting the "stand-still campaign" against the Maoists since January 2024 to get the state free from grip of Naxal menace. Later in the evening, the home minister chaired a high-level meeting attended by Director General and Additional Director General of Police of Chhattisgarh and neighbouring Maoist-affected states besides senior officials in Naya Raipur and reviewed the ongoing anti-Maoist strategy, its outcome and security related issues. Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai and State Home Minister Vijay Sharma were also present.

Earlier, Shah performed bhoomi-pujan and laid the foundation stone for a dedicated campus of National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) and to set up a Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) to be developed at a cost of Rs 268 crore at Nava Raipur.

"These institutes will provide a strong base in the effective swift application of the modern criminal justice system and investigation procedures in the entire central India. All forensic and other key investigations will now be carried out at Nava Raipur. We will have the best and modern evidence-based criminal justice system in the world.

Lay down your arms and join the mainstream. You will never get a better opportunity. Many have surrendered and I assure them that the Centre and the state govt will provide what have been promised.

Amit Shah, Union Home Minister

Bengal to borrow ₹4K cr for 25% DA pay to staff

KAUSHIK PRADHAN @ Kolkata

THE West Bengal government has started preparations to approach the market this week to borrow approximately ₹4,300 crore to pay the 25% Dearness Allowance (DA) to state government employees and pensioners, following a Supreme Court order issued on May 16.

The state requires around ₹10,425 crore to comply with the apex court's order by June 27; or else it may face contempt of court proceedings. On the contrary, complying with the order will push the state into a larger debt trap with a total outstanding debt of ₹7,06,531.61 crore, as per the revised budget estimate for 2024-25.

When the Mamata Banerjee government came into power in May 2011, the state had a total debt of around ₹1.89 lakh crore. Over the last 14 years, the debt has nearly quadrupled due to inadequate mobilisation of financial resources and a significant jump in expenditure related to various welfare schemes, including 'Kanyashri', and 'Lakshmir Bhandar'.

According to political observers, these schemes paid a huge dividend to Mamata Banerjee's All India Trinamool Congress in the electoral politics both in Assembly and Lok Sabha polls by securing most of the women's vote. However, at the same time, these schemes, along with 'Swastha Sathi', somehow depleted the exchequer somehow.

"Now it's a Catch-22 situation for the West Bengal Government. If they fail to comply with the SC's order, they will face contempt proceedings. Otherwise, West Bengal will plunge into an acute debt trap if the government taps the market to borrow the funds needed to pay employees' DA," a political observer said. The West Bengal government has set a budgetary target to raise ₹81,972.33 crore from the market in the 2025-26 fiscal year. In the last financial year, it borrowed ₹80,000 crore from the market.

According to sources in Nabanna, the state administrative headquarters, the government will have to pay 25% of the outstanding DA of the employees following SC's interim order.

For the serving employees, the amount may be deposited into their GPF accounts. Since the state manages the GPF, the entire money will rest with the government, and if deemed necessary, it can also borrow from this fund. For the retired employees, the outstanding DA will be paid directly. According to the sources, the amount stands at approximately ₹2,902 crore.

A dilemma for state govt as SC deadline looms

The state requires around ₹10,425 crore to comply with an order of the apex court by June 27; or else it may face contempt of court proceedings. On the contrary, complying with the order will push the state into a larger debt trap with a total outstanding debt of ₹7,06,531.61 crore, as per the revised budget estimate for 2024-25. "It's a Catch-22 situation for the state govt," a political observer said.

2 men arrested in MP for destroying evidence in honeymoon murder case

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

A special investigation team (SIT) of the Meghalaya Police has arrested two men in Madhya Pradesh in connection with the murder of Indore businessman Raja Raghuvanshi.

The duo — identified as property dealer Shilom James and a guard named Balveer Ahirwar — were nabbed from Indore and Ashok Nagar districts, respectively, for tampering with evidence. This has pushed the total number of people held in the case to seven.

While James was arrested while trying to flee to Bhopal on Saturday night upon being called for interrogation, Ahirwar was apprehended on Sunday morning. They will be produced before a local court in Indore and taken by the Meghalaya police on transit remand to the northeastern state for further probe into the matter.

The investigation so far has revealed that James had rented a flat in Indore's Dewas Naka area to one of the killers, Vishal Chauhan, on May 30. Sonam later used the same flat as a hideout till June 7, before fleeing to Uttar Pradesh and later dramatically resurfacing in Ghazipur on June 9.

But she left behind in the flat a black bag that reportedly contained her laptop, around ₹5 lakh in cash, jewellery and a pistol reportedly procured by her alleged lover Raj Kushwah from local arms suppliers in western Madhya Pradesh.

According to investigators, CCTV footage from a nearby showroom showed security guard Ahirwar handing over the black bag to James. When summoned for questioning by the Meghalaya Police's SIT, James attempted to flee and was apprehended at the Bhonrasa toll booth on the outskirts of Indore. Ahirwar also fell into the police net just hours later. Subsequent interrogation revealed that James had set the bag on fire behind his residence in Indore.

A source privy to the matter shared, "Both James and Ahirwar destroyed crucial evidence pertaining to the high-profile May 23 murder. The bag was particularly important, as it possibly contained Sonam's laptop, cash and jewellery, besides a pistol."

12 killed
as mob storms bus with Muslim wedding guests in Nigeria's Plateau state

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	26	11	LC	Los Angeles	17	10	SNY
Colombo	32	25	TDS	Melbourne	18	13	LC
Dhaka	34	27	LC	Moscow	5	0	LC
Dubai	42	31	SNY	New York	14	6	LR
Houston	30	22	LC	Singapore	31	25	TDS
Istanbul	17	12	LR	Toronto	8	1	LC
London	17	8	SNY	Washington	23	8	TDS

Iran executes alleged Israeli spy

Tehran: Iran executed a man on Sunday who was convicted of being an agent for Israel's Mossad spy service, the judiciary said, as the two foes traded fire for a 10th day. "Majid Mosayebi... was hanged this morning after going through the full process of criminal procedure and after his sentence was confirmed by the Supreme Court," the judiciary's Mizan Online website said.

US open to Iran nuclear talks: Rubio

Washington: The United States would allow Iran to operate nuclear power plants but not enrich its own fuel, Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on Sunday after the US strikes. "The Iranian regime should wake up and say 'OK, if we really want nuclear energy in our country, there's a way to do it.' That offer's still there, we're prepared to talk to them tomorrow," he told Fox News.

Nuke know-how indestructible: Iran

Tehran: Iran said its knowledge in the nuclear field "cannot be destroyed" after the United States carried out a series of strikes Sunday on atomic facilities in the Islamic republic. "They should know that this industry has roots in our country and the roots of this national industry cannot be destroyed," said Atomic Energy Organidation of Iran spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi.

'No danger' near attacked sites: Iran

Tehran: Iran's government said there was no immediate danger to the public after the United States struck three of its nuclear sites on Sunday. "There is no danger to the people living on the outskirts of our nuclear areas," spokeswoman Fatemeh Mohajerani said on state television. "The people of Natanz, Isfahan and Fordo can continue their lives."

Iranians lift flags and placards during a rally protesting the US attack on Iran in Enghelab Square in Tehran on Sunday | AFP

'DANGEROUS ESCALATION'

WORLD REACTS TO US STRIKES ON IRAN

As US hits Iran N-sites, world leaders split between calls for calm and rising fears of wider conflict

PARIS

AFTER the United States struck three nuclear sites in Iran on Sunday, joining Israel's bombing campaign after days of speculation over Washington's involvement in the conflict, the world reacted to the escalation.

While Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi condemned the US attacks as "outrageous" and said his country had a right to defend its sovereignty, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu congratulated Trump, saying the attacks would "help lead the Middle East and beyond to a future of prosperity and peace".

The European Union's top diplomat Kaja Kallas called for de-escalation and a return to negotiations. Russia "strongly condemned" the bombings, calling them "irresponsible" and a "gross violation of international law". Ukraine's foreign ministry said the strikes were justified to prevent Tehran from developing nuclear weapons, praising them as a "clear signal". UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called the strikes a "dangerous escalation in a region already on the edge".

This handout satellite picture provided shows damage after US strikes on the Isfahan nuclear enrichment facility in central Iran| AFP

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation warned that the strikes could lead to "heightened tensions and threaten regional security, peace, and stability". UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer called on Iran to "return to the negotiating table and reach a diplomatic solution to end this crisis".

China's foreign ministry said it "strongly condemns" the US strikes, warning that they "escalate tensions in the Middle East". Saudi Arabia expressed "great concern" after the strikes on its neighbour, the "sisterly Islamic Republic of Iran". Yemen's Huthi rebel government, which is backed by Iran, condemned the US attacks and expressed solidarity with the Iranian people. *AFP*

ISRAEL SAYS BODIES OF 3 HOSTAGES RECOVERED

JERUSALEM

THE Israeli military said Sunday that it had recovered the bodies of three hostages in Gaza more than 20 months after they were abducted by Hamas militants.

"In a special operation... the bodies of the hostages Ofra Keidar, Yonatan Samerano and Staff Sergeant Shay Levinson were recovered from the Gaza Strip yesterday," the military said in a statement.

Samerano's father had announced earlier Sunday that his son's body, which was taken into Gaza after he was killed in a kibbutz by the territory on October 7, 2023 had been recovered by the Israeli army.

He paid tribute to "the brave soldiers of the IDF (Israeli military) and the Shin Bet" security service in a message posted on Instagram.

The Israeli campaign group the Hostages and Missing Families Forum described Samerano as "a talented DJ who just wanted to make music, have fun, and travel". *AFP*

WAR WATCH
ISRAEL-GAZA: DAY 626

TOLL SO FAR
55,780

Israeli army says struck 'dozens' of sites in Iran

JERUSALEM

THE Israeli military said its fighter jets had struck "dozens" of targets across Iran on Sunday, including a long-range missile site in Yazd in the centre of the country for the first time.

A statement said that "approximately 30 IAF (air force) fighter jets struck dozens of military targets throughout Iran" — including "the 'Imam Hussein' Strategic Missile Command Center in the Yazd area, where long-range Khorramshahr missiles were stored".

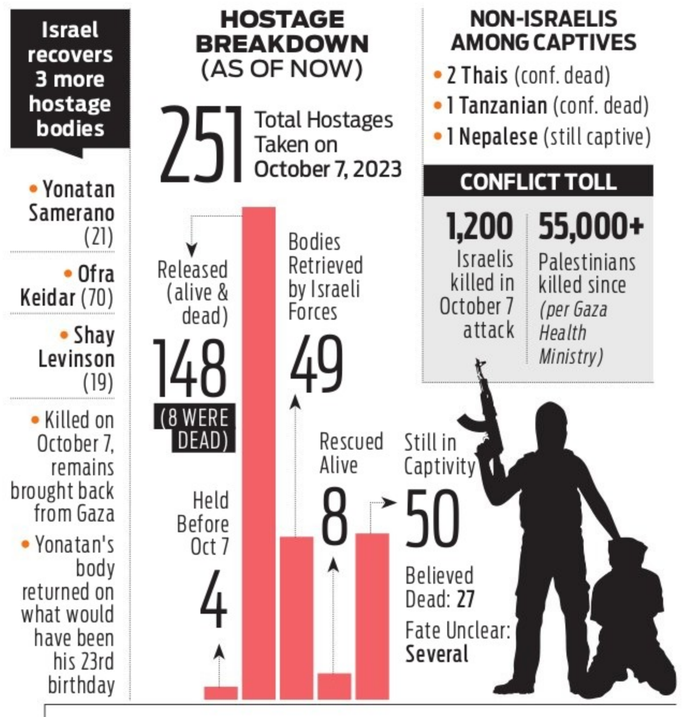
The statement also confirmed strikes on missile launchers in Bushehr province, where a "massive explosion" was reported by Iranian media on Sunday, as well as in Ahvaz in the southwest and central Isfahan.

Earlier Sunday, military spokesman Effie Defrin vowed there would be no let-up in Israel's offensive against Iran despite overnight US strikes on Iran's nuclear sites which President Donald Trump claimed had been "obliterated."

"We are continuing and are determined to achieve the objectives of the operation: eliminating the existential threat to the state of Israel, damaging Iran's nuclear programme and destroying its missile systems," Defrin said. *AFP*

FILE: Donald Trump smiles at Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu | AP

A LOOK AT HOSTAGE SITUATION


Israel recovers 3 more hostage bodies
• Yonatan Samerano (21)
• Ofra Keidar (70)
• Shay Levinson (19)
• Killed on October 7, remains brought back from Gaza
• Yonatan's body returned on what would have been his 23rd birthday
HOSTAGE BREAKDOWN (AS OF NOW)
251 Total Hostages Taken on October 7, 2023
Released (alive & dead) 148 (8 WERE DEAD)
Held Before Oct 7 4
Bodies Retrieved by Israeli Forces 49
Rescued Alive 8
Still in Captivity 50
Believed Dead: 27
Fate Unclear: Several
NON-ISRAELIS AMONG CAPTIVES
• 2 Thais (conf. dead)
• 1 Tanzanian (conf. dead)
• 1 Nepalese (still captive)
CONFLICT TOLL
1,200 Israelis killed in October 7 attack
55,000+ Palestinians killed since (per Gaza Health Ministry)

DON-ERA NATO SUMMIT VEERS FROM UKRAINE FOCUS

BRUSSELS

AT its first summits after Russia began its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, NATO gave President Volodymyr Zelenskyy pride of place at its table. It won't be the same this time.

Europe's biggest land conflict since World War II is now in its fourth year and still poses an existential threat to the continent. Ukraine continues to fight a war so that Europeans don't have to. Just last week, Russia launched one of the biggest drone attacks of the invasion on Kyiv. But things have changed.

The Trump administration insists that it must preserve maneuvering space to entice Russian President Vladimir Putin to the negotiating table, so Ukraine must not be allowed steal the limelight.

In Washington last year, the military alliance's weighty summit communique included a vow to supply long-term security assistance to Ukraine, and a commitment to back the country "on its irreversible path" to NATO membership. The year before, a statement more than twice as long was published in the Lithuanian capital Vilnius. A new NATO-Ukraine Council was set up, and Kyiv's membership path fast-tracked. Zelenskyy received a hero's welcome at a concert downtown.

It will be very different at a two-day summit in the Netherlands that starts Tuesday. NATO's most powerful member, the United States, is vetoing Ukraine's membership. It's unclear how long for. *AP*

From sunk to saved, the Bayesian superyacht is lifted off Sicily

PORTICELLO

A British-flagged luxury superyacht that sank off Sicily last year, killing U.K. tech magnate Mike Lynch and six others, was lifted from the water Saturday as salvage recovery crews completed the complex operation to bring it ashore for further investigation. The white top and blue hull of the 56-meter (184-foot) Bayesian, covered with algae and mud, was visibly clear of the sea in a holding area of a yellow floating crane barge off the Sicilian port of Porticello. "The hull of the superyacht Bayesian has today been successfully and safely recovered from the sea off the coast of northern Sicily," said TMC Maritime, the company conducting the recovery. "This follows a delicate lifting procedure that began early today."

TMC added that the hull will continue to be held "in an elevated position to allow expert salvage personnel to complete checks and preparations" ahead of its transportation into the Sicilian port of Termini Imerese on Sunday.

The floating crane platform will move the Bayesian to the port, where a special steel cradle is waiting for it. The vessel will be then made available for investigators to help determine the cause of the sinking.

The hull of the superyacht Bayesian, which sank near Palermo, Sicily, on August 19, 2024, is pulled out of the sea off the village of Porticello and dewatered | AP

The Bayesian sank August 19 off Porticello, near Palermo, during a violent storm as Lynch was treating friends to a cruise to celebrate his acquittal two months earlier in the US on fraud charges. Lynch, his daughter and five others died. Fifteen people survived, including the captain and all crew members except the chef. The vessel has been slowly raised from the seabed, 50 meters (165-feet) down, over the past three days to allow the steel lifting straps, slings and harnesses to be secured under the keel.

Eight steel lifting straps were used to put the hull upright and to form part of a steel wire lifting system that began raising the vessel out of the water Saturday. *AP*

EXPRESS READ

Croatia on alert as wildfires threaten coast

Zagreb: After she took ill with high fevFirefighters in southern Croatia remained on alert Sunday amid fears that strong winds could reignite wildfires near Split. Crews had used water bombers to control the blaze around Pisak village, where 50 firefighters will monitor the area until Monday. The fires scorched 300 hectares and damaged dozens of homes. One firefighter and several civilians sustained minor injuries. Around 94 tourists were briefly evacuated. Authorities suspect arson and have urged public cooperation. Officials said the damage was extensive, especially in Marusic village, but praised the fact there were no deaths, calling it "pure luck."

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby notified that my client Sri. N. G. Nagendra Prasad is the owner of the property described in the Schedule below. He has purchased the same through registered Sale deed, registered as document no. 7276/1988-1989 Book I,Volume no. 4219, at pages 183 to 186, on 13/02/1989, in the office of Sub-Registrar, Bangalore North Taluk, from Executed by Sri. M. Dinesh Kumar @ Dinesh Kumar, minor was being represented by his natural guardian and father, Sri. S. Megharaj.

If any person or persons (including Sri. M. Dinesh Kumar) or financial institution or Bank has any claim over the schedule property or any person or persons claim any right title or interest, over the schedule property, the same may be lodged with the undersigned within seven days from today, along with relevant documents, failing which, it will be presumed that the schedule property is free from any such claim and any claim received thereafter will not bind my client and would not be considered by my client.

Schedule

All that piece and parcel of the Portion of immovable property bearing Sites no. 1, 2, 3, Old Property no. 329/126/47/2/1/2/3, New City Municipal Council Property no. 6180338379, formed out of Sy. no. 47/2, land converted vide conversion orders/endorsement nos. ALN/SR/144/1964-1965 and ALN/SR/145/1964-1965, dated 19/03/1966, passed by the Tahsildhar, Nelamangala Taluk, Situated at Chikkabidarakallu Village, DasanapuraHobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Previously under the limits of Chikkabidarakallu Village Panchayath, Presently comes under the limits of City Municipal Council, Madanayakanahalli, bearing Khatha no. 134, in total measuring 3545.98 Sq., ft., (329.434038 Sq., mtrs.,), along with the Ac sheet Roofed Shed and bounded on : Boundaries:-

East : Private Property;
West : Road;
North : National Highway no. 04;
South : Site no. 04.

MALLIKA.B Advocate
No. 19, 1st 'E' Cross,
J. S. Nagar, Nandinilayout,
Bangalore- 560 096.
Ph: 9845595954 / 9742658187

No. 2
SUMMONS FOR SETTLEMENT OF ISSUES [Or.5, Rl.1, 5]
IN THE COURT OF THE XXXI ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE
O.S. No. 2732 / 2002 (CCH - 14)

BETWEEN : **INTEGRATED FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED,** a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956, having its registered office at "Vairams", No.12, Thyagaraya Road, T. Nagar, Chennai - 600 017, and its branch office at Unit No.8, 2nd Floor, "Empire Infantry", No.29, Infantry Road, Bangalore - 560 001, represented by its Executive Assistant and Power of Attorney Holder, Mr. M.T. Chengappa. ...PLAINTIFF

AND : **PHOTON FOUR (INDIA) PVT. LTD. & OTHERS** ...DEFENDANTS

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT Nos.1, 3 & 6

DEFENDANT No.1: PHOTON FOUR (INDIA) PVT. LTD., a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956, having its office at No.604, 5th Cross, 17th Main, 4th Block, Koramangala, Bangalore - 560 034, represented by its Managing Director, Mr. R. Raj Kumar. ...DEFENDANT No.3

Mr. R. RAJ KUMAR, adult, son of Dr. Rajendran, occ: Managing Director, Photon Four (India) Pvt. Ltd., and, Partner: M/s. Photon Four, having his address at No.604, 5th Cross, 17th Main, 4th Block, Koramangala, Bangalore - 560 034. ...DEFENDANT No.6

MEDIAN ADS PVT. LTD., a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956, having its office at "Sujay House", No.4, Uttaradi Mutt Road, Shankarapuram, Bangalore - 560 004, represented by its Managing Director, Mr. B.S. Sujay.

WHEREAS Integrated Finance Company Limited, the Plaintiff above-named has instituted a suit against you for recovery of a sum of Rs.2,90,86,315.33ps. with future interest and for sale of the mortgaged plaint Schedule 'A' to 'C' properties and other reliefs.

You are hereby summoned to appear in this Court in person, or by a pleader duly instructed, and able to answer all material questions relating to the suit, or who shall be accompanied by some person able to answer all such questions, on the **14th day of July, 2025,** at 11.00 o'clock in the forenoon to answer the claim.

Take notice that, in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

SCHEDULE - A

Commercial Apartment/Flat bearing No.S-909, measuring about 745 square feet of super built-up area, inclusive of a proportionate share in the common areas, situate on the 9th Floor of the South Block of the commercial building by name "Manipal Centre" situate at No.47, Dickenson Road, Bangalore - 560 042, together with an undivided 203.81 square feet share of the land being the Western Portion of the composite land situate at and bearing No.47 (Old No.3, City Survey No.360), Dickenson Road, Bangalore - 560 042, in Corporation Ward No.78, bounded as follows: East by : Private Property and Public Park; West by : Dickenson Road; North by : Private Property; South by : Private Property;
and measuring East to West 335 feet on an average and North to South 302 feet on an average, in all 94,570 square feet, subject to the right of way from Dickenson Road to the remaining Eastern Portion of the said property retained by M/s. Industrial Credit and Development Syndicate Ltd.

SCHEDULE - B

Commercial Apartment/Flat bearing No.M-524 5th Mezzanine Floor, measuring about 566 square feet of super built-up area, inclusive of a proportionate share in the common areas, situate between the 5th and 6th Floors of the South Block of the commercial building by name "Manipal Centre" situate at No.47, Dickenson Road, Bangalore - 560 042, together with an undivided 154.84 square feet share of the land being the Western Portion of the composite land situate at and bearing No.47 (Old No.3, City Survey No.360), Dickenson Road, Bangalore - 560 042, in Corporation Ward No.78, bounded as follows: East by : Private Property and Public Park; West by : Dickenson Road; North by : Private Property; South by : Private Property;
and measuring East to West 335 feet on an average and North to South 302 feet on an average, in all 94,570 square feet, subject to the right of way from Dickenson Road to the remaining Eastern Portion of the said property retained by M/s. Industrial Credit and Development Syndicate Ltd.

SCHEDULE - C

Commercial Apartment/Flat bearing No.M-724 7th Mezzanine Floor, measuring about 566 square feet of super built-up area, inclusive of a proportionate share in the common areas, situate between the 7th and 8th Floors of the South Block of the commercial building by name "Manipal Centre" situate at No.47, Dickenson Road, Bangalore - 560 042, together with an undivided 154.84 square feet share of the land being the Western Portion of the composite land situate at and bearing No.47 (Old No.3, City Survey No.360), Dickenson Road, Bangalore - 560 042, in Corporation Ward No.78, bounded as follows: East by : Private Property and Public Park; West by : Dickenson Road; North by : Private Property; South by : Private Property;
and measuring East to West 335 feet on an average and North to South 302 feet on an average, in all 94,570 square feet, subject to the right of way from Dickenson Road to the remaining Eastern Portion of the said property retained by M/s. Industrial Credit and Development Syndicate Ltd.

SCHEDULE - D

1 (One) number "Compu-Sign" Electronic Signboard bearing Model No.XL24 11320 192 RGB together with Software for the operation thereof, to be found in the possession and custody of either Defendant No.1 at the premises bearing No.604, 5th Cross, 17th Main, 4th Block, Koramangala, Bangalore - 560 034, or of Defendant No.6 at the premises known as "Sujay House", at No.4, Uttaradi Mutt Road, Shankarapuram, Bangalore - 560 004.

GIVEN under my hand and the seal of the Court, this 12th day of June, 2025.

BY ORDER OF THE COURT, SENIOR SHERISTEDAR, CITY CIVIL COURT, BENGALURU.

Advocate for Plaintiff : **P.B. APPIAH,** Advocate
9, Hayes Road, Richmond Town, Bangalore - 560 025. Ph: 98450 15216

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No.:SEE/Tr(P)/MNGC/EE(O)/AEE(3)/2025-26/1056-58 Date: 20.06.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPPP mode only)

KPTCL invites tenders through KPP Portal mode from empanelled Survey agencies for conducting Surveying and Geo technical investigation works along with Civil works who is also having EPF and ESI registration and fulfilling all other requirements as in NIT (of KPPP), for the execution of 1No. of capital work (within Dakshina Kannada District jurisdiction): **Work indent No: KPTCL/2025-26/OW/WORK_ INDENT2340.** Interested tenderers directly can access the tendering website **www.kptcl.karnataka.gov.in hyperlink "E procurement KPTCL"** or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **24.06.2025 /** onwards for detailed NIT and to participate in the Tenders through E-procurement. Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer(Ele),
Transmission (Projects) Circle, KPTCL, Maroli,
Kulashekara, Mangaluru-575005, Ph: 0824-2211342.

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
Regional Office Bengaluru South, First Floor, 19 South End Road Basavanagudi Bengaluru 560004
Email id: recblrro2@canarabank.com

DEMAND NOTICE [Section 13(2)]

NOTICE TO LEGAL HEIR OF THE DECEASED BORROWER/ DECEASED PARTNER OF THE BORROWER PARTNERSHIP FIRM

Whereas, the Authorized Officer of the **Canara Bank, Begur Branch** under the Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (2)of Chapter-3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice/s on below mentioned date, calling upon the following borrower/s/ Guarantor/s /Legal heirs of borrowers to repay the dues within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

Name of the Legal heirs of Borrowers: 1) Smt. Rani A W/o Late Balakrishna G, No. 36, 7th Main, 6th Cross, Balaji Layout, Hongasandra, Bengaluru South - 560 068. **2) Sri Akash B,** S/o. Late Balakrishna G, No. 36, 7th Main, 6th Cross, Balaji Layout, Hongasandra, Bengaluru South - 560 068

Schedule A : (Details of the credit facility/ies availed by the Borrower)

Sl. No	Loan Number	Nature of Loan/ Limit	Date of Sanction	Amount Sanctioned
1	0437619002464	Housing Loan	11.05.2017	Rs. 16,00,000.00

Total Liability as on 20.06.2025 **Rs.14,38,964.19** (Rupees Fourteen Lakhs Thirty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Four and Paise Nineteen Only) + interest together with further interest and incidental expenses and costs.

Date of NPA: 09.06.2025 **Demand Notice Date:21.06.2025**

Schedule B : All that part and parcel of immovable property house list number 105/33 (earlier Bommanahalli, CMC Khatha number 250/105/33/82, BBMP Ward No. 189, sitauted at Balaji Layout, Hongasandra Village, Begur Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru - 560 068, measuirng East to West 25 feet and North to South 30 feet in all totally measuring 750 sqft. The property is bounded on: East by : Marappa's Property, West by : 19 feet Road, North by : Site no 32, South by : Site Number 34.

Name of Title holder: Sri Balakrishna G (late)

The above borrowers committed default of repayment of loans as above and the loans are duly secured by way of mortgage of property described as above and were classified as Non Performing Assets on various dates mentioned as above. The Bank issued Registered to all the above borrower/Guarantors under Section 13(2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, (SARFAESI Act) calling upon them to repay the outstanding amount. We now call upon to pay the above mentioned liability with further interest and cost accrued till date within 60 days from the date of this notice, failing which, Bank will be constrained to exercise its rights of enforcement of security interest as per Section 13(4) (a) to (b) of SARFAESI act 2002 against the secured assets given in the schedule above. The above borrower/s in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the above properties and restrained from dealing in term of Section 13 (13) of SARFAESI Act 2002 and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Canara Bank for the accounts mentioned above with further interest and cost, expenses thereon.

Place : Bangalore
Date : 21.06.2025

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

Know about sweep-in facility & its benefits

Before opting for a sweep-in FD, a/c holders need to consider factors including interest rates and tenure option

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

MANY of us keep a significant portion of our savings in a standard savings bank account, earning a modest annual interest of typically 2.5%. However, a smarter approach to managing your funds involves a "sweep-in" facility offered by banks. This innovative feature allows your excess savings to automatically move into a fixed deposit (FD) account, where it can earn a higher interest rate, often 6% or more.

What is a sweep-in facility?

A sweep-in facility links your savings or current account to a fixed deposit. When the balance in your savings account exceeds a predefined threshold, the surplus amount is automatically "swept" into an FD, where it starts earning a better interest rate. Sweep-in FDs also come with the "reverse sweep" feature. If your savings account balance dips below a certain minimum amount due to a transaction or purchase, the bank automatically transfers the deficit amount from your linked FD back to your savings account.

This ensures you have access to funds for emergencies like medical bills or vehicle purchases without manually breaking your FD and without affecting the interest rate on the remaining FD balance.

For instance, some FDs allow customers to access funds like a savings account while benefiting from attractive FD interest rates. When a reverse sweep occurs, funds are typically transferred on a Last-In-First-Out (LIFO) basis, often in multiples of ₹5,000. Sweep-in facilities are available for various entities, including resident individuals, societies and trusts, private and public limited companies, and Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs).

'Sweep-in' advantages

The primary advantage of a sweep-in account is that it offers the best of both worlds -- the high liquidity of a savings or current account combined with the attractive interest rates of a fixed deposit. This means your money is never idle; surplus funds automatically earn more. Additionally, many sweep-in FDs come with hassle-free auto-renewal, meaning the principal and accrued interest are automatically renewed for the same tenure, ensuring continuous growth.

Disadvantages

Despite their benefits, sweep-in accounts do have some potential drawbacks. Banks may impose additional fees for availing this facility. Penalties might be applicable for premature withdrawal of funds from the FD component. Therefore, it's advisable not to withdraw funds before the maturity of a sweep cycle to avoid these penalties. Before opting for a sweep-in FD, it's crucial to consider factors such as the minimum balance requirement, interest rates, tenure options, auto-renewal and premature withdrawal charges, sweep-in thresholds, sweep-out frequencies, and any tax implications on the interest earned. Understanding these aspects will help align the sweep-in FD with your financial goals.

Tax implications

Interest earned from savings accounts up to ₹10,000 a year is exempt from taxes. However, any interest income above ₹10,000, the amount is taxable as per the income tax slab. For senior citizens, interest income up to ₹50,000 is exempt from tax. Any interest earned from a fixed deposit is taxable as per the income tax slab.

IN CONVERSATION

DR AZAD MOOPEN
Founder and Chairman, Aster DM Healthcare

We plan to add 1,700 beds by FY27, says Aster founder

KOCHI- AND Dubai-based Aster DM Healthcare, founded by Dr Azad Moopen in 1987 with a single clinic in Dubai, expects to complete the takeover of the Blackstone and TPG-backed Quality Care Hospital by the fourth quarter of this fiscal. The takeover will result in the third largest hospital chain Aster Quality Care, after Apollo and Fortis, with 38 hospitals across four brands -- Aster DM, Care Hospitals, KIMS Health and Evercare -- offering over 10,150 beds spread across 27 locations. Aster Quality Care is now jointly controlled by the Moopen family holding 24% and Blackstone owning 30.7%. In an interaction with **Benn Kochuveedan** of TNIE, **Dr Azad Moopen** shares his plans and expectations from the largest deal that his group has done. Excerpts:

When do you see the merger of Quality Care Hospital getting completed? What are the targets in terms of revenue, profit expansion etc?

The merger brings together four leading healthcare brands — Aster DM, Care Hospitals, KIMS Health, and Evercare — forming one of the largest hospital chains with 38 hospitals and over 10,150 beds across 27 cities. Financially, the merger strengthens the balance sheet and cash flow, enabling accelerated expansion plans.

We aim to increase bed capacity to around 13,300 beds by FY27, further expanding our reach into tier 2 and 3 cities, providing a platform for sustained growth in the future. The merger is expected to be concluded by Q4FY26, with benefits expected to start flowing in from early FY27.

What are the synergies you see from the merger?

The merger unlocks significant synergies that will drive growth, operational efficiencies, and enhanced patient care across the combined network. Integrating our extensive hospital portfolios will allow the new entity to benefit from economies of scale by negotiating better terms with suppliers, reducing costs, and streamlining inventory management that will lower operational expenses and improve margins.

Our overall capital allocation for expansion across the domestic market is ₹1,400 crore, of which we have already spent around ₹350-400 crore.

What is the capex plan for fiscal 2026, especially in light of the merger-driven expansion? How many more hospitals and beds to come up this fiscal?

We plan to add 1,700 beds by FY27, taking the total bed tally in India to over 6,800 through the organic route and will further look for expansion through the inorganic route. Our overall capital allocation for expansion across the domestic market is ₹1,400 crore, of which we have already spent around ₹350-400 crore.

You have announced a ₹850-crore investment in Kerala. What is the strategic thinking behind focusing so much on Kerala, which is often seen as a relatively mature market?

Kerala is now poised for a significant transformation with a planned investment of ₹850 crore over the next three years. This expansion will be anchored by two major greenfield projects: Aster Capital Trivandrum, a 454-bed tertiary care facility, and Aster MIMS Kasaragod, a 264-bed multispecialty hospital. In addition, our flagship hospital, Aster Medcity in Kochi, is undergoing a substantial upgrade. By FY27, our total bed capacity in Kerala is expected to reach 3,453.

Affordable healthcare remains a chimera for the average citizen. What is Aster doing differently on this front?

To balance affordability and sustainability, we centralise complex procedures in larger hospitals, while smaller units focus on primary/secondary care. By FY27, as much as 57% of our planned bed additions will be in tier 2/3 cities. Technology is key to bridging gaps, with telemedicine set to grow at 20.7% annually till FY30, reaching $15.1 billion.

What are the digital initiatives of the group?

Some of our technology-driven, patient-friendly initiatives include the introduction of the Aster Health app that offers appointment bookings, e-pharmacy, and access to digital health records.

MONEY-WISE

ALL THAT GLITTERS IS ACTUALLY GOLD!

FINANCIAL ADVICE

ASHOK KUMAR
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(Views expressed here are personal)

MANY Indians believe that we are, as a nation, among the best investors in gold worldwide. But quite often, the difference between physical consumption and investment is lost. Interestingly, studies across the Indian sub-continent have found that there is a clear emotional connect between the yellow metal and its consumers. A gold loan financing company's CEO, I professionally interacted with, told me that irrespective of gold price swings, his company's delinquency ratio always remained minimal.

Other than commodity traders who deal in the precious metal and are not averse to selling it when found profitable to, the rest, by and large tend to hoard and pass gold down their generations. This has been the historic trend in India.

What has changed though is the growing number of younger investors who prefer to use gold as a pure investment avenue and accumulate it with the clear-cut intention of profiting from it at the appropriate time. Smart investors have historically used Gold as a natural hedge in their portfolios to their equity holdings as in periods of crisis, when equities tend to weaken, gold has surged.

This was clearly witnessed in the early months of this decade, when the first Covid wave swept across the globe. This trend has remained with Gold emerging since then as one of the outperforming Asset classes. While Covid was the catalyst, the periodic flare-ups in geo-political hotspots have ensured that the price of Gold has been north bound. Besides the purchase of physical gold, the more popular avenues used by those that invest in gold are Exchange traded Funds (ETFs) and Fund of Funds.

Gold ETFs are units representing physical gold in dematerialized form. One Gold ETF unit is equal to 1 gram of 24k gold and is backed by physical gold of very high purity. Gold ETFs combine the flexibility of stock investment and the simplicity of gold investments and are listed at the premier stock exchanges, and traded just like the stock of any company. A demat account is necessary to transact in Gold ETFs and the new 12.5% rate post two years of holding taxation rules are applicable on the realized gains therefrom.

Gold Fund of Funds, more commonly referred to as Gold Mutual Funds are open-ended funds which invest in units of Gold ETF.

The returns of these funds reflect that of the underlying Gold ETF. While these funds are very convenient for making pre-set (e.g. SIP) purchases and sales in gold, the expense ratios levied by the fund houses running them, make them marginally costlier.

Its taxation is the same as ETFs. Yet, besides the convenience of auto-pilot investing that it offers, it also ensures disciplined investing making it a popular choice.

A look at gold returns over the last five years suggests it has been not just a hedge option but also an out-performer. But, notwithstanding fears of a price correction, there is still smart money accumulating it, betting on the stupidity of mankind and its inability to live in peace.

MONEY MATTERS

KNOW ABOUT INDIA'S 'GOOD' PROBLEMS

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR
(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

INDIA'S corporate and banking sectors have come a long way. In 2016-17, the Economic Survey highlighted a twin-balance sheet problem for India's economy. There was a crisis in the balance sheets of corporates and banks. Public sector banks unveiled stressed assets that unleashed a slowdown before the Great Pandemic hit the economy.

Cut to the present day, and you will notice that corporate and bank balance sheets are more robust than ever. The latest analysis by ICRA, a credit rating agency, shows that The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) is helping drive a change in the behaviour of borrowers and improving lenders' recovery. That is boosting the balance sheets of banks. Despite tepid credit growth, banks can maintain a strong balance sheet.

Similarly, companies are sitting on record profits as a percentage of gross domestic product. They are utilising the money to repay debt. Businesses have already increased dividend payouts besides the buyback of shares. Companies either pay shareholders more cash, issue bonus shares, or both. That has enthused investors, and share prices are already near record highs. It is likely to continue to attract investors.

The bad news about the good news

Indian equity valuations are significantly higher than those of other key markets. While domestic mutual fund investors continue to support Indian listed companies with new money gathered every month, foreign portfolio investors are treading with scepticism. They are pulling out money at every new peak share price touch. A primary reason is that the external environment is getting difficult. Despite all the rhetoric about India turning into a manufacturing hub, the troubled geo-political situation and the US trade policies are likely to make job creation difficult.

The latest minutes of the monetary policy committee quotes a survey of corporate performance that shows companies are paying off the debt with rising profits. Their capacity utilisation is above 75%, but the investment intentions have moderated in 2025-26. That means businesses do not want to invest in expansion. That causes a slowdown as fewer jobs are created.

A primary reason for urban consumers' inability to spend more is worries about future income. If you live in a city, you are trying to meet all your expenditures and allocate money for your future. There is little space for ambition or early retirement due to a lack of income growth.

The survey of corporate performance shows that companies are deleveraging their balance sheets with rising profits. Companies choose to pay back banks and reduce their interest burden with increased profits. Despite the capacity utilisation crossing beyond 75%, the investment intentions in manufacturing have moderated in 2025-26.

The government will have to support the industry with further fiscal measures, and the RBI will have to focus on bringing down borrowing rates and take other measures that ease liquidity further in the financial system. It also shows the thinking about demand prospects. Experts are waiting and watching the impact of a cut in the personal income tax rates announced in Budget 2025. There is hope that it will leave more money in your hands to spend and revive the demand for consumption.

What it means to your money

There is a reason not to risk your money at this stage. Gold prices are near a record high. Share prices have continued to remain near historic highs. Most pundits advocate a 'bottom-up' investment approach. That means identifying companies with strong balance sheets and not trading at record highs. It is easier said than done for fund managers at institutions where they have access to a lot more information than you do. It is the right time to review investments towards your long-term goals. If share prices are consolidating, stronger balance sheets will ensure they get the necessary momentum for the next structural rally.

Housing sales plunge to 14-quarter low in Q2

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

HOUSING sales across India's top 9 cities during the second quarter (Q2) of 2025 (April-June) fell below 1 lakh unit mark for the first time since Q3 of 2021 while supply remained below this threshold for the fourth consecutive quarter.

Sales fell by 19% on y-o-y basis to 94,864 units while supply fell by 30% y-o-y to 82,027 units in the April-June period of 2025, according to data shared by real estate consultant PropEquity. Housing sales stood at 1,16,432 units and supply stood at 1,17,208 units in April-June period of 2024. The decline in real estate sales stems from a steep rise in property prices over the past two years, which has significantly eroded demand, particularly in the affordable housing segment. Even a sharp reduction in repo rates and lower interest rates have done little to revive buyers interest. According to the report, housing sales fell y-o-y in 7 out of the 9 cities with Mumbai and Thane witnessing the sharpest fall at 34% each while Delhi-NCR at 16% and Chennai at 9% were the only two cities that saw a rise in sales in April-June of 2025. Similarly, housing supply fell y-o-y in 6 out of the 9 cities with Mumbai recording the sharpest fall at 61% while three cities saw rise in supply, namely Delhi NCR at 37%, Hyderabad at 19% and Chennai at 6% in April-June of 2025.

Chennai bets on low-cost edge AI for the next gen of devices

C SHIVAKUMAR @ Chennai

AS artificial intelligence (AI) increasingly moves away from centralised cloud models, Chennai is carving out a quiet but consequential role in the global shift toward "edge AI." This emerging paradigm brings intelligence directly onto devices—where data is processed locally, reducing reliance on cloud infrastructure. At the heart of this movement is embedUR Systems, an embedded software company with a growing influence in edge computing.

Headquartered in Silicon Valley, embedUR has operated in Chennai for over 16 years, and is now expanding its footprint as demand grows for energy-efficient AI software that can run on inexpensive, low-power chips. "We're in the business of making software for low-cost chipsets," said Rajesh C. Subramaniam, founder and CEO of embedUR. "We don't build chips—we help make them intelligent." embedUR's edge AI models allow devices such as routers, door locks, and even printed posters to operate without relying on the cloud. Edge computing is not new, but its importance has grown amid rising concerns about data privacy, latency, and internet dependency. AI at the edge reduces the need to send sensitive data to remote servers, enabling real-time decision-making with improved security and responsiveness. Chennai has emerged as a critical development hub in this evolution. Known for its embedded systems talent and engineering universities, the city is central to embedUR's future growth. The company plans to expand to over 2,000 employees in Chennai by 2029. "Chennai has the expertise and cost advantages we need," said Subramaniam. "It's becoming our engine for innovation."

Sebi proposes 5-point AI norms for securities mkt

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Mumbai

MARKETS watchdog Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has released a consultation paper proposing a five-point regulatory framework for the responsible use of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) in the securities markets. The guidelines, aimed at specifying the procedures and control systems to ensure responsible usage, focus on governance, transparency, fairness, data security, and risk controls, aiming to balance innovation with investor protection.

The proposed guidelines cover several key parameters, including governance, investor protection, disclosure, testing frameworks, fairness and bias, data privacy and cybersecurity measures. In the new draft, Sebi has proposed that market participants should disclose their use of AI and ML tools in operations like algorithmic trading, asset management, portfolio management, and advisory services. Disclosures should include information on risks, limitations, accuracy results, fees, and data quality, says the draft paper. It also adds that market participants using AI and ML will now have to designate senior management with technical expertise to oversee the performance and control of these tools. They also have to maintain validation, documentation, and interpretability of these models.

Canada qualify for men's T20 World Cup

The Canadian men's cricket team has qualified for next year's ICC T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka after defeating Bahamas by seven wickets in the Americas Qualifiers here. Thanks to their fifth successive victory in as many games, Canada had also featured in last year's men's T20 World Cup in the Americas.

DEATH, TAXES AND BUMRAH

Premier pacer takes yet another five-fer as India secure a slender six-run first innings lead

FIROZ MIRZA @ Chennai

IT was Jasprit Bumrah, who stood between Australia and the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, till the second day of the fifth Test a few months ago. Captaining in absence of the regular skipper Rohit Sharma, the premier Indian pacer claimed eight wickets including a five-fer in the first innings of the opening Test in Perth to hand the team a winning start.

Back spasm, however, prevented him from bowling further in the final Test in Sydney as the hosts completed a 3-1 win to finally lay their hands over the trophy after more than nine years. It will not be exaggeration to say that the Gujarat pacer has been single-handedly shouldering the bowling responsibility for the country irrespective of the formats despite being hampered in injuries over the years. Given his unorthodox bowling action and importance to the Indian team, the team management has decided to manage his workload and it is because of this the bowler is expected to play only three Tests in the ongoing five-Test series in England.

His mere presence not only gives immense confidence to his teammates but also makes the opposition wary given his knack to turn the match on its head with his single spell. Pat Cummins and Co experienced it first hand and now it's the turn of the English batters to witness the same magic of the World No 1 Test bowler.

With the visitors posting 471 in their first innings of the inaugural Test in Leeds, the onus was on the 31-year-old speedster to make sure England batters do not have it easy. He didn't disappoint as he had opener Zak Crawley off the last ball of the first over to give India a start they were longing for on Day 2. Bumrah went on to pick two more wickets as England ended the day at 209/3 thanks to an unbeaten century by Ollie Pope. Despite the initial hiccups, England batters, especially Pope and Harry Brook, made sure they did not fall too short in their reply. What made it easy for them was some mediocre performance from other Indian bowlers. Pacer Prasidh Krishna might have picked up three wickets but he gave away runs at 6.40 runs per over. Similarly, Mohammed Siraj went for 4.51 runs per over even as he claimed two wickets.

The not-so-impressive show by his fellow pacers ultimately put the burden on Bumrah to prevent English batters from running away with the game. As he has been doing for years now, Bumrah claimed two more wickets on Day Three as India took a slender six runs lead.

Bumrah playing a lone warrior has become a recurring theme for India more often than not and his exploits when compared to fellow bowlers highlights overdependence of the team on him. Since the first BGT match in Australia, Bumrah has been head and shoulders above the rest of the Indian bowlers. In those five matches and the first innings of the ongoing Test, Bumrah's bowling average stands at 13.54 while none of his fellow bowlers has an average below 25.

Mohammed Siraj in that period has an average of 33.86 while Prasidh Krishna averaged 26.11. Average of Harshit Rana and now retired R Ashwin is 50.75 and 53 respectively while Akash Deep's figure is 54. Ravindra Jadeja, meanwhile, averages 71.50 highlighting his plight in the longest format.

Interestingly, as many as three catches were dropped off Bumrah's bowling while a no ball bowled by him cost him yet another wicket in the last 24 hours. Despite that the ever-reliable Bumrah completed yet another five-for, his 12th overseas, as he drew level with the legendary Kapil Dev to take the joint-most five wicket hauls away from home. What makes the feat more astonishing is the fact that Bumrah did it only in 34 Tests while the former Indian captain took 66 matches to reach there.

Like Down Under, England batters have to deal with Bumrah cautiously through the course of the series as the latter has been a thorn in their flesh every time he has the red cherry in his hand.

Jasprit Bumrah walks off with the ball after a five-wicket haul against England on Day 3 | BCCI

SCOREBOARD

India 1st Innings: 471; **England 1st Innings** (O/n 209/3 in 49 ovs): Brook c Shardul b Prasidh 99, Stokes c Pant b Siraj 20, Smith c Sai Sudharsan b Prasidh 40, Woakes b Bumrah 38, Carse b Siraj 22, Tongue b Bumrah 11, Bashir (not out) 1; **Extras** (B - 8 LB-18, NB-7, W-1) 34; **Total** (all out, 100.4 ovs) 465; **FoW:** 5-276, 6-349, 7-398, 8-453, 9-460; **Bowling:** Bumrah 24.4-5-83-4, Siraj 20-2-122-1, Prasidh 20-0-128-3-1, Jadeja 23-4-68-0, Shardul 6-0-38-0; **India 2nd innings:** Jaiswal c Smith b Carse 4, Rahul batting 47, Sudharsan c Crawley b Stokes 30, Gill batting 6; **Extras** (lb 1, nb1, w 1): 3; **Total** (2 wickets in 23.5 ovs): 90; **FoW:** 1-16, 2-82; **Bowling:** Woakes 6-2-18-0-1, Carse 5-0-27-1, Tongue 5-0-15-0-1, Bashir 2.5-1-11-0, Stokes 5-1-18-1.

Boom joins Kapil at top

Indians with most five-fers overseas

Bowlers	Five-fers	Away Tests
Jasprit Bumrah	12	34
Kapil Dev	12	66
Ishant Sharma	9	63
Zaheer Khan	8	54
Irfan Pathan	7	15

England's favourite Harry makes India brood on Day 3

FIROZ MIRZA @ Chennai

IENGLAND's explosive batter Harry Brook had not even opened his account when he top-edged Jasprit Bumrah to Mohammed Siraj on Day Two in Leeds, Headingley on Saturday. Unfortunately for Bumrah and India, the pacer had overstepped and the batter got a new lease of life.

However, that was not the only reprieve for the World No. 2 Test batter as he was dropped twice — one each when he was on 46 and 82 respectively. He made the visitors pay with his 112-ball 99 to take the team closer to India's first innings total of 471. A typical Brook's innings at a strike rate of 88.39 meant the hosts replied strongly, posting 465 in their first essay. For the unversed, the 26-year-old Yorkshire lad has the highest strike rate in Test cricket among specialist batters at the moment.

Highly regarded for his destructive batting abilities irrespective of the format, the recently-appointed England white-ball captain has a kind of unusual relationship with India. Earlier this year, he was banned for two years from the Indian Premier League after pulling out of the competition for the second year running. Delhi Capitals was the franchise that signed him on both occasions with his latest paycheck during the 2025 mega auction being ₹6.2 crore.

In 2024, he pulled out of the England tour of India comprising five Test matches and the IPL taking compassionate leave so that he could spend time with his ailing paternal grandmother, who subsequently passed away. The reason for his no-show in the 2025 IPL was his intention to get ready for national duty. More than sympathy, Brook's absence from the two editions of the cash-rich league fetched scathing comments from cricket pundits, including the likes of Akash Chopra. Even before that, Brook garnered unwanted attention when he attributed his struggles in the T20I series in India early this year to smog. He scored 17 off 14 balls in the first T20I in Kolkata before being cleaned up by leg spinner Varun Chakravarthy. "I didn't face (Ravi) Bishnoi but Chakravarthy is an exceptionally good bowler," he said after the match. "He's tough to pick. I think actually with the smog the other night, it was a lot harder to pick as well," he went on to say.

The comments drew sharp reactions with former India ace off-spinner R Ashwin particularly harsh on the young English batter. Ashwin even questioned Brook's ball-reading abilities and opined the batter's career seems to be sinking. What did not help Brook's cause was his comments on Indian food and life of the people in the country. His middling performance in his only IPL stint in 2023 added to his woes. He was bought for ₹13.25 crore by Sunrisers Hyderabad then but the batter could manage only 190 runs from 11 matches at an average of 21.11. The highlight of the season for Brook was his century against Kolkata Knight Riders.

Interestingly, the seemingly 'uneasy' relationship Brook has with the cricket's economic powerhouse began much earlier when he toured India in 2017 for five youth one-dayers and two-match youth Test series. As per reports, Brook broke his hand punching a table after he got out in one of those matches.

Brook's apparent frosty relationship with India seems rare especially in IPL times when even the most competitive cricketers from Down Under try to establish a good rapport with their Indian counterparts.

Harry Brook scored 99 runs which guided England to a sizeable total on Sunday | AFP

We are seeing the very best of Harry Brook. When we watched him and admired his skills over the years, we often wondered the strike rate at which he scores in Tests. The audacious shots that he plays, the general approach. I liked that first over or two as well, when he danced down to Jasprit Bumrah and said, look, you may be No. 1 bowler in the world, but I'm pretty good too. I am No. 2 in the world, so this is going to be a good contest.

— Former cricketer Nick Knight while speaking with the host broadcasters

EXPRESS READ

Eng's 1st British-born black cricketer dies

LONDON: David 'Syd' Lawrence, the first British-born Black cricketer to play for England, has died. He was 61. Lawrence's family made the announcement on Sunday with a statement through Gloucestershire, where Lawrence was the club president. He announced a year ago he had motor neurone disease.

Men's freestyle team win U23 Asian title

VUNG TAU (VIETNAM): The Indian men's freestyle team produced its best ever show at the U23 Asian Wrestling Championship, winning six gold and a silver to clinch the team title. In an unprecedented success for India, both men's and women's teams won the team championships. The women team had won medal in each of the 10 categories.

5 Indians make cut in Czech Ladies Open

BEROUN (CZECHIA): India's Amandeep Drall birdied her final two holes as she rallied to an even-par second round and be tied in 12th place after two rounds of the Tipsport Czech Ladies Open here. Amandeep, who had a superb 8-under 64 in the opening round, added a 72 in round two to make the cut along with four other Indians.

TN swimmer creates national record

BHUBANESWAR: Tamil Nadu swimmer B Benedicton Rohit smashed the 'Best Indian Time' in the men's 100m butterfly to clinch the gold at the National Aquatic Championship on Sunday. His 52.57s performance shattered the long-standing Best Indian Time(52.77s) set by Virdhawal Khade in 2009. He also bettered the national record (53.24s) of Sajan Prakash.

Harder the contest, the more fun it is: Suruchi

ANMOL GURUNG @ Chennai

TOP GUN

Buenos Aires WC | Apr 01-11
10m air pistol
Qualification: 583 | 1st
Final: 244.6 | Gold
Mixed Team: Bronze along with partner Saurabh Chaudhary

Lima WC | Apr 13-22
10m air pistol
Qualification: 582 | 3rd
Final: 243.6 | Gold
Mixed Team
Gold along with Saurabh

Munich WC | June 08-15
10M air pistol
Qualification: 588 | 2nd
Final: 241.9 | Gold
Mixed Team
10th position

IT would be an understatement to say that pistol shooter Suruchi Singh has had a swell time so far this season. Even after factoring the Indian shooters' considerable impression at the elite level in recent years, Suruchi's, who turned 19 not so long ago, exploits in the last three World Cups is quite a colossal leap. Three back-to-back individual gold medals in a competition of that magnitude is something that's unheard of as far as India is concerned. Moreover, what makes her tale interesting is the fact she was shooting at this level (senior World Cups) for the first time.

Currently at her hometown at Sasroli village in Jhajjar district, Haryana, Suruchi, after a small break, has started training her guns for her next assignment — the national selection trials that's scheduled to be held in Dehradun on June 29. The shooter, who specialises in 10m air pistol category, knows that her recent exploits are just the beginning and she still has a lot to offer. "It was a good experience and I got to learn quite a lot during my matches, the finals. There are certain things that I have noted down, the mistakes that I made then. I have to work on those things now. It's mainly related to my technique," Suruchi told this daily.

Wang Zifei of China might be the only shooter who could likely claim to have a better season. Just like Suruchi, the 18-year-old, who competes in women's 10m air rifle, has three individual gold medals (including a World Record score) and three more (1 gold, 1 silver, 1 bronze) in team competitions.

The fact that Suruchi was up against some giants of the sport is what makes her golden run more rewarding. Jiang Ranxin (2020 Olympic gold medallist and multiple record holder from China), Oh Ye-jin (reigning Olympic champ from South Korea), Camille Jedrzejewski (Paris Games silver medallist from France), veteran Olena Dmytrivna Kostevych (former Olympic champion) and senior compatriot Manu Bhaker of course, were some of the big names that Suruchi was facing then. The first-year BA student said that she enjoys such competitions. "Competition is fun, it's good to be part of matches that involve big names. The harder the competition, the more fun it is," she said. She spoke on how she deals with the pressure. "I generally don't think about anything before the matches. I don't think about how big a competition will be entering the match because everyone is a strong shooter in their own rights. That is the reason I don't feel pressure from anyone."

Suruchi is currently looking to sharpen her skills at the Guru Dronacharya Shooting Academy under the guidance of her coach Suresh Singh. It's a process of one step at a time for the promising shooter.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

India men snap losing streak with 4-3 win

AGENCIES @ Antwerp

THE Indian men's hockey team edged past Belgium 4-3 to register its first win in the European leg of the FIH Pro League on Sunday, ending a run of seven successive losses. With the scores tied at 3-3 with just two minutes left for the final hooter, India asked for a referral after a strong challenge inside the circle. The decision went in India's favour and the brilliant Harmanpreet Singh stepped up to convert the penalty stroke and seal the issue in his team's favour. Sukhjeet Singh scored a brace and Amit Rohitdas chipped in with a field goal, before Harmanpreet's winner.

6th defeat for women's team

The Indian women's hockey team went down 0-2 to Belgium to suffer its sixth successive defeat in the European leg of the FIH Pro League and inch closer to relegation on Sunday.

After two goalless quarters, Belgium scored twice in quick succession in the third quarter to win the reverse fixture, a day after a 5-1 mauling of the Indian side. Both India and Belgium displayed attacking intent in the first half, testing each other's defence throughout with the visitors also earning two penalty corners even as Belgium threatened with more circle entries. However, India failed to respond appropriately after conceding twice. The result has seen India drop to the last spot on the table with 10 points from 14 matches.

NAIL-BITING FINISH

Inter score two late goals to sink Urawa in Club World Cup

AGENCIES @ Seattle

VALENTIN Carboni scored in stoppage time to give Inter Milan a 2-1 win over Urawa in the Club World Cup on Saturday, ending the Japanese club's chances of advancing past the group stage. Inter failed to score until the 78th minute, despite holding the vast majority of possession.

Lautaro Martinez brilliantly bicycle kicked Nicolo Barella's corner ball into the net. Carboni's game-winner assisted by Francesco Esposito came 14 minutes later. It was the culmination of multiple scoring threats by Inter, which had 21 more shot attempts than the Red Diamonds. Urawa opened the scoring in the 11th minute to the delight of their exuberant fans, who have shown up in droves for these Seattle cup matches.

Ryoma Watanabe scored on an assist in transition by Takuro Kaneko, who found Watanabe all alone on the penalty spot with his cutback ball. Urawa had a chance to equalize in the last minute of stoppage time, but goalkeeper Yann Sommer tipped the long-distance free kick over the crossbar.

The fans in red filled the south end of Lumen Field and made up a large swath of the 25,090 attendees. Their coordinated chants and jeers didn't wane until after the final whistle.

Inter Milan takes over the top spot in Group E after following up their tournament-opening draw with the victory. The Italian club will play River Plate of Argentina on Wednesday. Urawa will be playing for pride against CF Monterrey on Wednesday.

Fluminense beat Ulsan 4-2

Juan Freytes scored the go-ahead goal in the 83rd minute and Fluminense beat Ulsan 4-2 in the Club World Cup on Saturday night. He put away a first-touch finish, off a cross by German Cano, from point-blank range to take the lead. Jhon Arias bent a 25-yard free kick inside the right post and under the crossbar in the 27th minute to open the scoring for Fluminense. Lee Jin-hyun, on the counterattack, put away a cross played by Um Wonsang into a wide-open net to tie it in the 37th and Um scored on diving header, off a low ball-in played by Lee, in first-half stoppage time to give Ulsan a 2-1 lead at halftime.

Saturday's results: Inter Milan 2 **bt** Urawa Red Diamonds 1; Fluminense 4 **bt** Ulsan FC 2.

Inter's Valentin Carboni celebrates after scoring the winning goal | AFP

Research and innovation hub

'A design that fosters a culture where disciplinary boundaries are fluid'

IN a candid conversation, IIT Gandhinagar Director Professor Rajat Moona discusses the institute's student-first philosophy, interdisciplinary design, hands-on innovation ecosystem, and its role in India's technological future

What are the unique strengths or focus areas that set IIT Gandhinagar (IITGN) apart from other IITs?
One of our most distinctive aspects is the deeply ingrained culture of interdisciplinarity. IITGN does not have discipline-specific buildings — you won't find separate structures labelled 'Department of Mechanical Engineering' or 'Chemical Engineering.' Instead, our faculty and students from diverse fields work together.

IIT Gandhinagar has made significant strides in water and climate engineering research. Do share a few recent breakthroughs.
Our students and faculty are doing excellent work across labs and disciplines.
For instance, in water security initiatives, researchers from the Smart Materials Lab and ChemiGlyphic Lab have developed energy-free filters and nanoparticle-based water purification systems.
In tackling urban climate and heat resilience, our Built Environment Lab is using Computational Fluid Dynamics simulations and portable weather stations, like the in-house developed WxCart, to map microclimates, optimise green infrastructure, and reduce energy loads.

How has the flagship event InventX India programme shaped the innovation culture at the IIT?
InventX India, formerly known as Invention Factory, is redefining how students address real-world problems.
For six intense weeks, participants focus on inventing solutions to problems of significant need. Interdisciplinary teams — often design and engineering — collaborate to turn ideas into tangible prototypes. The transformation is striking: students emerge not just as better innovators, but as sharper thinkers and confident problem-solvers.

Where do you see India in 2050, and what role do you see IIT Gandhinagar playing in that vision?
By 2050, I envision India as a global powerhouse in electronics and semiconductor manufacturing. At IIT Gandhinagar, we are proud to be an active part of this evolving ecosystem and we aim to contribute meaningfully by nurturing talent, advancing research, and fostering innovation.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Shashank Pramod Naphade
- BTech Electrical Engineering, Class of 2013
- Master's degree in Computer Engineering from Texas A&M University
- Working as an ASIC Design Engineer at Apple in Cupertino, California

Aryan Kumar
- BTech in Civil Engineering, Class of 2014
- Assistant Commandant - CRPF, 52nd DAGO Officer; presently in charge of E-128 CRPF, deployed at Raj Bhavan, Guwahati, Assam

Silky Agrawal
- MTech in Civil Engineering, Class of 2015
- Founder of GeoCarte Radar Technology, a start-up providing non-destructive geophysical exploration services

Akash Keshav Singh
- BTech, Class of 2015
- CEO and Co-founder of Sprih, a climate AI start-up
- Akash has guided global brands, including Fortune 500 companies, toward greener operations, delivering impactful progress across diverse industries

Devanshi Saxena
- MA in Society and Culture, Class of 2022
- Secured an AIR of 124 in the UPSC Civil Services 2024
- Accounts Officer/ Enforcement Officer at the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) Regional Office in Faridabad, Haryana

AI and language technology

Ganga-1B: India's first Hindi language AI model developed by IITGN's LINGO lab
Language expansion: Model being extended to other Indian languages
Applications: Implementation in e-governance and education sectors
Interdisciplinary AI: Integration of AI with math, biosciences, and robotics

Student-led innovation

Hands-on learning: Autonomous vehicle project as part of coursework
Practical application: Transformation of electric golf cart into state-of-the-art driverless vehicle
Campus integration: Functional autonomous navigation system for real-world campus use

Global collaborations

International partnerships: University of California San Diego (USA)
European connections: University of Cambridge (UK)
Asian partnerships: Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (JAIST)
Industry collaboration: Adani Defence and Aerospace
Strategic focus: Building mutually beneficial relationships with national and international institutions

Robotics & engineering innovation

Medical robotics: Development of soft robots for surgical applications
Wearable technology: Creation of exosuits for human assistance
Multi-robot systems: AI-controlled systems for disaster response and industrial applications
Autonomous vehicles: Student-developed driverless vehicle capable of campus navigation from hostels to academic areas

Healthcare and biomedical research

Virtual reality therapy: VR-based rehabilitation tools for post-stroke, Parkinson's, and autistic patients
Drug delivery systems: Advanced hydrogel-based delivery mechanisms
Diagnostic technology: Ultrasound-based diagnostic tools and cancer detection systems
Computational drug discovery: AI-accelerated design of novel drug molecules targeting infectious diseases and neurological disorders

IITGN students pose with the autonomous vehicle they developed

Sustainability and climate solutions

Green agriculture: Development of biodegradable fertilizers
Clean energy: Gold nanostructures for green hydrogen production
Energy storage: MXene-based supercapacitors for improved energy solutions
Climate forecasting: Operational real-time drought and flood forecasting systems integrated with India Meteorological Department

BREAKING BOUNDARIES, BUILDING FUTURES

IIT Gandhinagar's interdisciplinary revolution reshapes engineering education

From fluid disciplinary walls to AI breakthroughs in Hindi – Saumya Solanki finds out how India's youngest IIT is pioneering a student-first philosophy that's preparing tomorrow's innovators for a technology-driven 2050, while staying rooted in community service

ICONIC EVENTS & TRADITIONS

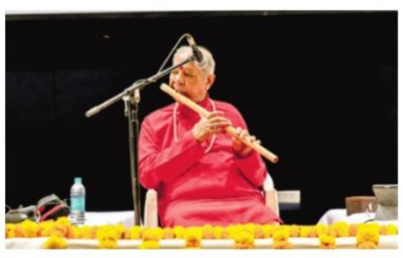
Beyond the Classroom: IITGN's signature events define campus spirit

In fact, Director of IITGN says, "We have a number of initiatives in place to ensure that our students not only become successful working professionals but also well-rounded individuals."

- **Hallabol**, a unique intra-institute tournament where mixed teams of students, faculty, and staff compete across disciplines, promoting unity and friendly rivalry.
- The annual hackathon, **HackRush**, is a 36-hour innovation marathon where over 500 students engage in solving real-world problems in areas like cybersecurity, machine learning, and robotics.

- Another standout is **TEDxIITGandhinagar,** which brings thought leaders and inspiring personalities to campus, sparking meaningful dialogue. Previous editions have featured speakers such as Dr Manish Gupta, Gaurav Juyal, and Olympian Dutee Chand.

- **Blithchron,** the much-anticipated cultural festival, energises the campus with performances, competitions, and star-studded evenings. Past editions have hosted artists like Vishal Dadlani, Ayushmann Khurrana, Antara Mitra, and others.



- On the technical front, **Amalthea,** the annual tech summit, showcases cutting-edge innovation through interactive expos, expert talks, and events. A recent highlight included a spectacular drone show at the Atal Bridge in collaboration with GUJSAIL.
- Recently, the institute hosted **Virasat 2025 – a SPICMACAY event,** organised by the SPICMACAY Heritage Club of IITGN, celebrating Indian classical arts through performances and workshops by maestros such as Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia.

WHAT'S FUN ON CAMPUS

Best dish in the canteen: Dosa at South Point and Mexican Puff at 'Tea Post'
Most awesome informal tradition: Garba nights, farewell DJ night before convocation, film-screenings and screenings of cricket and football matches in Jibaben Memorial (Kanisa) Auditorium
Best time to be on campus: Monsoon
Best spot to hang out for students on campus : Old Panchayat Circle and Tea Post
Most instagram-worthy spot on campus: Lal Minar, Rangmanch, Central Vista, U-corridor, Samvaad area
Most competitive club or society : Competitive programming club Grasp and Dramatics Club Abhinaya

Placement trends & challenges

CAREER DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (CDS)

- CDS at IIT Gandhinagar plays a proactive role in facilitating placements, internships, and opportunities for higher education.
- Organises sessions for career counselling, resume building, screening tests, group discussions, interviews, and personality development.
- Collaborates with a dedicated student team to streamline the placement process.

Placement Statistics (as of now)

BTech	MTech	MSc
Registered: 184	Registered: 113	Registered: 37
Placed: 142	Placed: 60	Placed: 26
Placement rate: 77.17%	Placement rate: 53.10%	Placement rate: 70.27%
Average package: ₹18.60 LPA	Average package: ₹11.50 LPA	Average package: ₹9.22 LPA
Median package: ₹14.72 LPA	Median package: ₹10.48 LPA	Median package: ₹7.75 LPA

MA in Society and Culture (MASC)
Registered: 5 Placed: 1 Placement Rate: 20%
Average/median package: ₹6.00 LPA

STUDENTS' VOICES

JAGRUTI M PATIL,
PhD Student, Biological Sciences and Engineering

One of the many enriching aspects of IIT Gandhinagar is the freedom for interdisciplinary research, strong mentorship, vibrant campus life, and opportunities that go beyond academics, from sports and outreach through Nyasa to the various certification programmes.

SIDDHARTH SACHIN DOSHI
BTech Student, Electrical Engineering

When it comes to non-academic facilities and infrastructure, I couldn't have asked for more. Even academically, the flexible and well-designed curriculum supports personalised career planning. Very few institutes offer such freedom to pursue multiple minors and dual majors.

PRASAD PAWAR
PhD Student, Physics

The best part of studying at IITGN is its vibrant, supportive campus. Being involved in clubs like Nyasa, which aids migrant children's education, has been a rewarding experience for me. Other initiatives like Art@IITGN and LDI have played a role in my personal and professional growth.

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DAY'S DIARY

Series premiere

On this day in 2022, TV series *The Bear* created by Christopher Storer, starring Jeremy Allen White, premiered on Hulu

PREMISE

Talented haute cuisine chef Carmen inherits his family's Italian beef sandwich shop after the suicide of his older brother, Michael. He comes home to Chicago to run it

THE RECEPTION

The series has won 21 Primetime Emmy Awards including one win for Outstanding Comedy Series, two direction wins, and two acting wins

NEW SEASON

Ahead of the third-season premiere, the series was renewed for a fourth season, which is set to be released on June 25, 2025

CE's guide to happenings in the city

PG 2

TAKING PRIDE

B'LURU'S LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY CAME TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE PRIDE MONTH WITH A WALK. **ALLEN EGENUSE J** CAPTURES THE MOMENT

City streets came alive with all the colours of the rainbow on Sunday afternoon as members of the LGBTQIA+ community and allies came together to march from Kanteerava Stadium to Town Hall. Dressed in their colourful best, the walk was an assertion of pride and a celebration of all gender and sexual identities.

All that glitters is not a pure zari silk saree anymore. Here is why and how they are vanishing from looms, stores, and your shelves.

NIDHARSHANA RAJU

CLAD in a green saree, Keerthy Suresh's Savitri in *Mahanati* sits quietly in a taxi, listening as the driver speaks of his daughter's wedding and his worry of affording it. Upon reaching home, goes inside, lifts a purse from beneath her pillow, only to find a few coins. She turns to her once overflowing cupboard, and finds nothing but rows of sarees. She selects a gold zari-laced saree – slips to a neighbour and asks to pawn it. Then, she presses a bundle of notes into the driver's hands – her kindness wrapped in silk and her downfall traded in silence.

This scene lingers long after the credits roll, serving as a reminder that once, a silk saree was wealth itself. Even two decades ago, it helped settle debts or fund a wedding. But today, it's merely fabric that may not draw any returns, say retailers, weavers and pawnbrokers.

To grasp why, one needs to understand each thread that is used while weaving a saree, says AK Rajan, a weaver in Kumbakonam. Every thread is a union of fine filaments of silk, entwined with threads dipped in gold and silver. These are spun to form a single thread. It is by weaving thousands of threads that a saree comes alive. "Within the industry, the amount of gold or silver on threads is called 'touch'. So if someone says 75 or 80% touch, it means the threads have higher levels of gold or silver," Rajan says, adding that touch levels have stooped to a new low. "Most silk sarees today have only 38 to 40% touch against 75 to 80% 20 years ago. If a customer has a good budget and purchases directly from us, it goes up to 50%. But not above that," Rajan confesses.

M Karnan, a silk saree pawnbroker who melts zari to recover metal, paints a grim picture. "Customers argue that they purchased pure zari sarees for ₹3 or ₹5 lakh. But upon examining, we only find 15 to 20% touch," he says, adding that he refuses to take sarees with less than 10%. "It is not profitable; they are just chemical stained sarees," Karnan says.

While many retailers may not disclose this to their customers, Goutham Muthuvel, a third-generation saree retailer from Tiruchy, says otherwise. "What is 'touch' to weavers is pulli among retailers. If the saree is under 10 pulli, we tell customers it is tester zari (copper threads coated with a thin layer of gold). Since 30 - 40 pulli zari sarees are what we mostly get from weavers, we can't call it adulteration. It has become the norm and they are sadly the pure zaris of today," he says.

'Profitless to weave'

To bring sheen, weavers take a week's time to handweave one pure zari silk saree. The process starts with preparing the threads, mapping the design, dyeing and drying the threads, weaving the saree, and drying it again before boxing it. "This means that in one thari, only four to five pure silk sarees are made in a month and only in summer. During monsoons, threads and sarees can't be sun-dried," says Goutham, who purchases sarees from weavers for his business. This makes the craft-heavy business, compensate the craftspeople inadequately.

Rajan breaks it down further. "We buy raw silk from Bengaluru. One kg costs around ₹7,000. When washed in hot water with washing soda, it reduces to 700 gm. So one gm of silk's cost works out to ₹10. Then we add dyeing charges," he says. In addition to this, for pure zari, silver's cost itself can drive up the price of saris significantly. "One gm of silver is ₹125. For a saree with a small zari border alone, we need around 50 gs of silver," he adds.

25 years ago, at his loom, Rajan reports, they were only weaving pure zari sarees with high levels of touch. "Now it's only order based, sold directly to customers. It comes with the GI tag, signifying its authenticity," he says.

For looms where middlemen are involved, the labour compensation is delayed due to credit. Goutham says that several retailers purchase saris from tharis with a credit window of alteast three months. "This makes it even more difficult for weavers because the business rides heavily on investment," he adds.

THE DEMAND CURVE

The demand for pure zari sarees has reduced significantly among millennials and Gen-Z. Goutham only purchases 10 pure zari sarees every quarter. "Only a few buy pure zari for non-bridal usage. People would rather invest in stocks and gold," Goutham says. He also delves into how silk sarees worn by Kollywood actors like Nayanthara and Jyothika are imitated with art silk and tester zari out of demand to make them affordable. "The silk saree that Jyothika wore to the Ambani wedding was such a craze that I stocked up imitation sarees. The actor must have spent lakhs but you can buy this tissue silk imitation at ₹15,000," he laughs. Does this mean a pure silk saree is no longer within reach? Not quite. Among retailers, Karnan says the highest touch of pure zari is noticed in sarees purchased from KSIC. "The touch in their sarees is as high as 62 %," Karnan informs.

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XPRESS FOCUS

GNA India Leads Affordable Connectivity Revolution Through Quantum Innovation and Strategic BSNL Partnership

Bengaluru-based GNA India Private Limited, an Indo-Japanese joint venture, is emerging as a key player in India's digital transformation. In close collaboration with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), the company is driving large-scale digital infrastructure initiatives aimed at providing affordable, high-quality connectivity while pioneering advances in quantum-based technologies.

Nagaraja M, Director and CEO of GNA India

At the heart of this effort is the BharatAirFi project—an ambitious public-private partnership launched with the goal of democratising internet access across India. Having secured BSNL's approval, GNA India has commenced full-scale deployment of this initiative. The project prioritises next-generation Wi-Fi services in remote and tourist regions, ensuring they are accessible at highly affordable rates.

Unlike conventional infrastructure, BharatAirFi employs radio frequency (RF) technology operating on unlicensed spectrum bands. This innovative use of RF technology enables the delivery of high-speed broadband and voice services in areas where traditional wired networks are either too costly or technically unfeasible. This approach facilitates swift and economically viable connectivity rollouts, particularly in geographically challenging environments.

BSNL plays a crucial supporting role by providing backend services such as billing, user authentication, and infrastructure support. GNA India, meanwhile, oversees the deployment and operational management of the Wi-Fi network.

The BharatAirFi initiative is a strategic step towards closing the digital divide, aligning closely with the objectives of the Digital India programme. By delivering reliable internet access to underserved communities, the project fosters both economic development and social inclusion, empowering citizens through improved access to digital services, education, and entrepreneurship opportunities.

GNA India's commitment to future-ready infrastructure is further evidenced by its expansion plans in Bengaluru. The company is setting up a state-of-the-art Wi-Fi communication infrastructure service centre at the Global Capability Centre (GCC) located within the IT Investment Region (ITIR) of the KIADB Industrial Park in Devanahalli, near Kempegowda International Airport.

Nagaraja M, Director and CEO of GNA India, has confirmed that the company's next phase of development will involve a substantial investment of Rs. 500 crore, with the creation of up to 600 employment opportunities. This expansion is centred around a new facility at Ashalt Sanctuary, a cutting-edge Global Capability Centre (GCC) project in Bengaluru.

GNA India has signed a long-term lease agreement for 100,000 square feet of space within Ashalt Sanctuary, an initiative by Ashalt Industries Bengaluru. The architectural design is being led by Surbana Jurong, a globally respected Singapore-based firm known for its integrated, sustainable, and human-centric design ethos. This reflects GNA India's commitment to fostering modern, future-ready workspaces that align with international standards.

The facility is strategically located within Bengaluru's burgeoning GCC ecosystem, which has rapidly emerged as a premier destination for high-end IT, research and development, and tech-driven enterprises. This strategic positioning not only enhances GNA India's operational capabilities but also integrates it into a larger innovation hub that is shaping the future of India's digital economy.

GNA

Further amplifying its commitment to cutting-edge technology, GNA India is set to launch a landmark initiative on 25 June 2025—the Bharat Smart Chain (BTSC), in partnership with BSNL. This next-generation digital payments infrastructure is built on quantum cryptography and blockchain technology, offering a revolutionary level of security, scalability, and real-time transaction processing.

The BTSC platform has been engineered to withstand the future threats posed by quantum computing, using quantum cryptography to ensure tamper-proof, unforgeable security. At its core, BTSC digital tokens are designed to enable secure, high-volume, real-time payments tailored for financial institutions and telecom infrastructure providers.

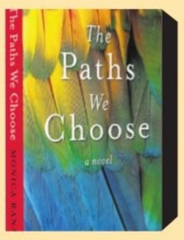
GNA India's ambitions for the Bharat Smart Chain extend well beyond Indian shores. A full-scale international rollout is planned for 2026, with market entry targeted in Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Africa.

The vision is to establish BTSC as a global benchmark for secure digital financial transactions, reflecting India's emerging leadership in next-generation financial technologies.

This expansive vision is firmly rooted in a commitment to quality, security, and operational excellence. GNA India operates in full compliance with global best practices, including ISO/IEC 27001:2022 for information security management—ensuring data confidentiality, integrity and availability—and ISO 9001:2015 for quality management, assuring consistent delivery of top-tier products and services.

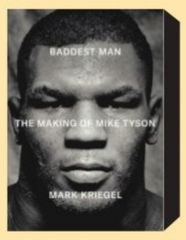
Together, these initiatives reflect GNA India's multifaceted approach to digital transformation: leveraging quantum-secure technologies, investing in world-class infrastructure, and aligning closely with national goals such as Digital India.

BOOK NOOK



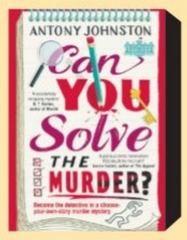
The Paths We Choose
by Monica Rana

Nepal, 2001. Up in the hills, the village of Rato Mato is waiting for rain. Rita and Sumnima, two cousins, are facing the challenges of growing up, in particular, the challenge of pending womanhood in a country of men. This is a story about identity – its loss, search and discovery.



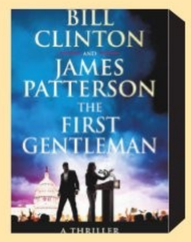
Baddest Man: The Making of Mike Tyson
by Mark Kriegel

A deeply human, unflinching portrait of Mike Tyson – from a brutal upbringing to the birth of a sports legend. It's a story of survival, rage, and redemption that reads like a Greek tragedy in gloves.



Can You Solve the Murder?
by Antony Johnston

An interactive murder mystery where you play detective. Perfect for fans of true crime and classic whodunnits, this clever novel challenges readers to examine the evidence, follow the clues, and crack the case before the final reveal. A true page-turning puzzle.



The First Gentleman
by Bill Clinton & James Patterson

What happens when the First Gentleman is the main suspect in a murder investigation? This gripping political thriller from two master storytellers is a high-stakes ride through love, power, and justice at the highest level of office. Smart, slick, and impossible to put down.

TWIRLING AWAY

Kathak dancer Sricharitha Chethan Gangatkar performs at her rangmanch pravesh at Chowdiah Memorial Hall | **SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA**

QUICKFIX

CHICKEN LENTIL SOUP

INGREDIENTS

- **Olive oil:** 1 tbsp
- **Onion:** 1, thinly sliced
- **Chicken legs:** 2
- **Masoor dal:** 4 tbsp
- **Water:** 4 cups
- **Bay leaves:** 2
- **Celery stalk:** 1, thinly sliced
- **Salt to taste**
- **Turmeric powder:** 1 tsp
- **Coriander leaves:** 2 tbsp (for garnish)
- **Garlic cloves:** 3, minced
- **Carrot:** 1, thinly sliced
- **Black pepper powder:** 1 tsp
- **Chicken thighs:** 2
- **Thyme:** 2 tbsp

METHOD

- Heat olive oil in a cooker. Add the minced garlic and bay leaves and sauté for 30 seconds. Add the sliced onion, celery, and carrot, and sauté for 2 minutes.
- Add the lentils, chicken thighs and legs, turmeric powder, thyme, and black pepper powder. Sauté for another 2 minutes, then add the water and salt.
- Pressure cook the mixture until two whistles. Remove the chicken pieces to a plate, shred them, and discard the bones.
- Return the shredded chicken to the pot and remove the bay leaves. Simmer the soup for 5 minutes.
- Serve hot with bread toast, garnished with chopped coriander leaves.

Contributed by **Sheeba La Fleur**, Thiruvananthapuram

ASK AN XPERT

DR VIVEK ARORA

The expert is a senior veterinarian, Dr Gandhi's Pet Clinic, Delhi.

My two-year-old parrot loves food, usually. She prefers ripe guavas for lunch. However, she has not been showing a high appetite for the past two days. What is the reason behind the change in her behaviour?

A noticeable drop in appetite in your two-year-old parrot, especially if she normally enjoys food, could point to an underlying cause. It might be due to mild stress, changes in her environment, weather shifts, or simply boredom with her usual meals. However, it could also signal a health issue such as a digestive disorder, infection, or nutritional imbalance. Watch for changes in her droppings, energy levels, or overall behaviour. Continue offering her favourite foods like ripe guavas and maintain a calm, consistent environment. If her appetite doesn't improve within a day or other symptoms appear, consult a veterinarian promptly.

FITBIT

SUKHASANA ELBOWS ON FLOOR
(EASY POSE ELBOWS ON FLOOR)

This is a seated forward bend variation performed in Sukhasana, wherein the upper body is in a forward bend with the forearms on the ground and legs in an easy cross. This gentle stretch is often performed at the end of yoga classes to restore the body and activate the parasympathetic nervous system (a signal to the brain to relax), which, in turn, helps the body and mind to rest, heal, and restore balance. This can be a therapeutic pose included in yoga sequences for all. It can help lower blood pressure, bring a sense of calmness, and promote sound sleep. This beginner-level pose forms a part of the yin yoga sequence, helping release deep-held tension in the back and neck.

STEPS

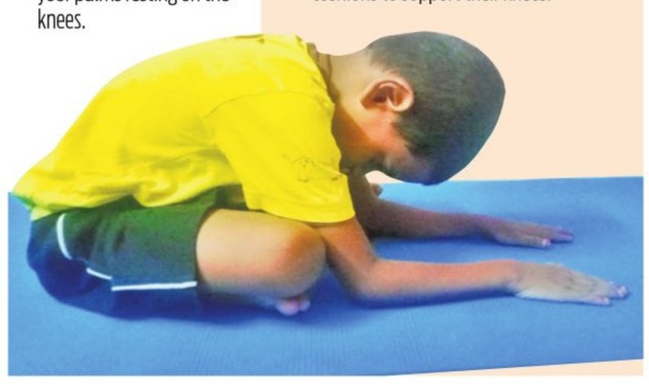
- Start in Sukhasana with a slight forward bend, palms resting on the mat.
- Stay here for a few easy breaths, straightening your back, keeping shoulders broad, chest open, hands straight, and chin slightly in.
- Begin to bend forward. Inhale deeply; while exhaling, bend down, sliding your hands forward to rest your forearms on the ground.
- Maintain this relaxing position with your face hanging in the air, looking ahead, shoulders wide, for about 8-10 breaths.
- You may also rest the forehead on a block or bolster.
- To release, lift your head to look in front, gently press the palms, inhaling, lift your elbows and slowly start to walk your hands back to come to sit up tall in Sukhasana.
- Take a deep breath here. Switch the cross of the legs, readjusting the sitting bones. You may do the stretch once again.
- Relax in Sukhasana with your palms resting on the knees.

BENEFITS

- Lengthens the sides of the body.
- Stretches the muscles of the back and hips.
- Tones pelvic floor muscles.
- Forward bend improves flexibility of the spine and hips.
- Increases the range of motion of the pelvic girdle, shoulders, and neck.
- Helps boost energy in the body.
- Acts as a great asana to relax the spine, shoulders, neck, and head.
- Calms the mind and central nervous system after practising deep backbends.
- Provides quick help to relax the entire leg muscles after a long and tiring day.
- Included in the nighttime yoga sequence, it induces sound sleep.
- Relieves sensations of suffering from restless legs syndrome.
- Relieves lower back from severe pain or symptoms related to sciatica.
- Gentle massage during menstruation reduces uneasiness or discomfort.

LIMITATIONS

- Students with a recent abdominal surgery or any injury, should take it slow with the advice of a yoga expert. Those with tight hips or less flexibility can perform the Butterfly Pose before going for this practice.
- Those with severe arthritis or pain in the knees can use folded blankets or cushions to support their knees.



By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

@XpressBengaluru/@tniefeatures
bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com
@xpress_bengaluru

WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Still Space

Dive into a mindful hour with a yoga session led by a yoga specialist. Open for everyone with no prior experience, this event offers practices that invite stillness through breath and gentle movement. Participants have to bring their own mats. Entry is free, but registration is mandatory.

WHEN: June 23, 10.30am
WHERE: MyBoTree, Koramangala
CALL: 63641 01183

Cantonese Spotlight

Experience a showcase of authentic Cantonese cuisine by Chef Fu Lei. The menu offers dishes such as black fungus salad, spicy Sichuan dan dan, smoked duck breast, wok-seared tenderloin, oyster shemiji, and more. Desserts include matcha opera and yuzu parfait, offering a light close. A la carte prices start at ₹625++ per person with buffet starting at ₹4,500++ per person.

WHEN: June 23 onwards, 6.30pm
WHERE: InAzia, Sheraton Grand Bengaluru Whitefield Hotel
DETAILS: 89042 77815

Capturing Struggles

Indulge in the screening of *The Unreserved*, directed by Samarth Mahajan and Mahima Venugopalan. The documentary captures the everyday journeys of passengers in the unreserved compartment of Indian Railways through candid conversations and personal stories.

WHEN: June 24, 6.30pm
WHERE: Bangalore International Center, Domlur
DETAILS: bangaloreinternationalcentre.org

Comedy Session

Enjoy an evening with a standup session featuring some of the city's funniest voices, where laughter is served with every bite. The jokes are simple, with a relaxed setting and stories relatable to everyone. The tickets are priced at ₹149 per entry.

WHEN: June 23, 8pm
WHERE: Glen's Bakehouse, Kalyan Nagar
DETAILS: allevents.in

Desi Nights

Celebrate the evening with Bollywood and Punjabi beats. Dance to popular tracks on a lively floor with LED visuals and DJ sets. The event offers complimentary drinks for ladies. Open to ages 21 and above.

WHEN: June 23, 8pm
WHERE: G Street Pub & Kitchen, Koramangala
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Clay Craft

Engage in this hands-on workshop to shape, carve, and paint a moon-shaped lamp. The session is beginner-friendly with step-by-step guidance and includes all necessary materials. Each participant can take home a finished lamp. Prices start at ₹2,400 per person.

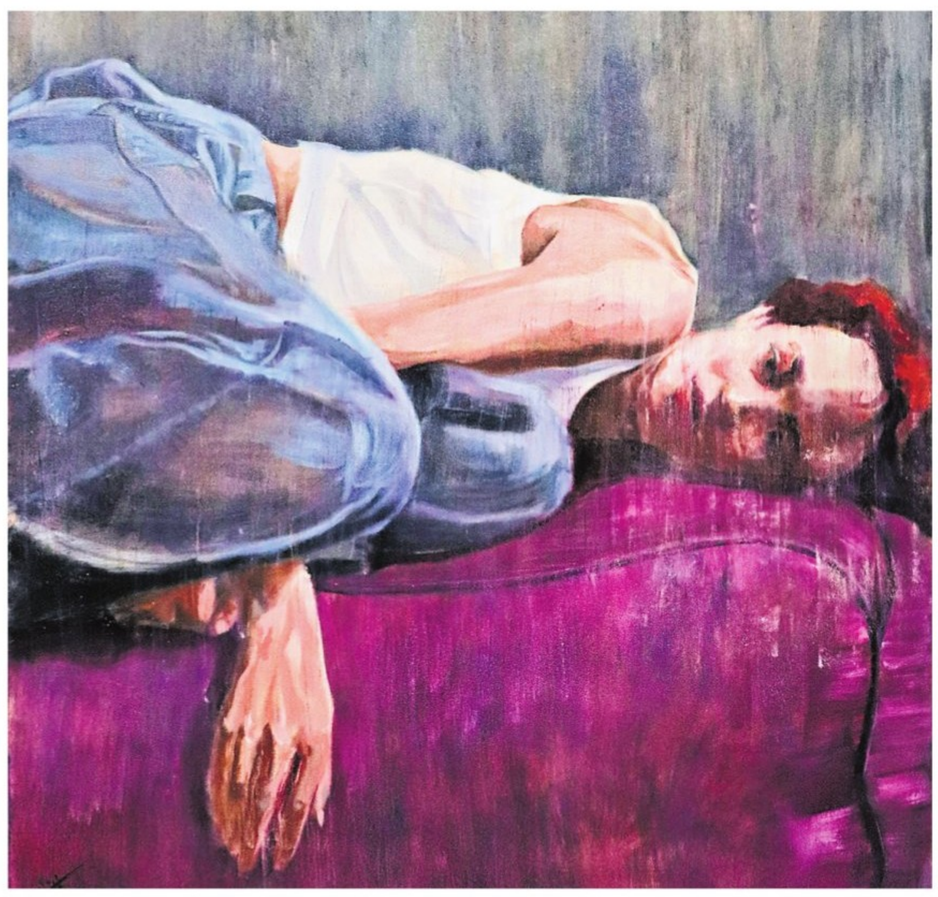
WHEN: June 23, 11am
WHERE: Paint Cafe Studio, Whitefield
DETAILS: insider.in

Ink Strokes

Learn the basics of brush calligraphy through guided practice using worksheets focused on strokes, letterforms, and short phrases. The event covers essential techniques for handling brush pens to explore styles and build control with no prior experience. All materials are provided beforehand. Prices start at ₹999 per person.

WHEN: June 24, 11am
WHERE: StoryZone, HSR Layout
DETAILS: 73491 51504

ARTCORNER



LIVING, DREAMING, BEING

Ebrahim Barfarazi's expressive figurative paintings delve into themes of identity, memory, and the passage of time, capturing the essence of human experience.

ALTROCKZ!

Spacious, stylish, and now smarter, the 2025 Tata Altroz gets a bold new update, and with it, continues to redefine the premium hatchbacks segment as it always does

LEKSHMI C PILLAI

ONE of the biggest reasons people prefer hatchbacks is the space they offer within a compact, stylish body. Just under four metres in length, they are easy to drive and convenient to park in tight spaces, making them a practical choice for many.

At the same time, they provide ample cabin room for passengers and decent boot space. Hatchbacks remain a crucial part of India's mobility landscape, and the Tata Altroz has been a strong contender in the premium hatchback segment since 2020. The Maruti Baleno and Hyundai i20 are other notable players in this category.

Now, to pull ahead, Tata Motors has rolled out a major facelift for the Altroz, complete with tech updates to appeal to modern buyers. At an introductory price of ₹6.89 lakh, there are two automatic transmission options to choose from – DCA and AMT. The multi-powertrain lineup includes petrol, diesel, and iCNG variants.

I took part in the national media drive of the updated Tata Altroz diesel and iCNG models in Bengaluru. Here are my thoughts on the car.

Exterior

The new Tata Altroz redefines modern sophistication with sleek, sculpted lines and a bold 3D front grille. The front profile is more striking now, thanks to refined detailing on both upper and lower grilles and LED headlamps with a high-tech signature.

LED fog lamps are included on the top variants. The redesigned bumper gives the rear a fresh look. The side profile is defined by two sharp horizontal lines on the wheel arches, adding to its muscular and aerodynamic appeal. Flush door handles on the front doors are a new feature.

Interior

The updated colour tones and textures give it a more premium feel. A soft-touch dashboard, galaxy ambient lighting, and dual-tone beige interiors lend sophistication.

The new two-spoke illuminated steering wheel stands out. Supportive seats with extended thigh support, a flat floor, and wide 90-degree door openings ensure comfort and accessibility. A 10.25-inch, ultra-view infotainment system and driver information cluster by Harman enhance usability.

Features include a 360-degree camera with blind-view monitor, voice-enabled electric sunroof, wireless Android Auto and Apple CarPlay, wireless charging, air purifier with express cooling, and IRA connected vehicle tech with 50+ features. Boot space remains 345 litres for petrol and diesel variants, while the twin-cylinder iCNG variant offers 210 litres.

Powertrain

Offered in petrol, diesel, and iCNG, the Altroz comes with various transmission options: a 5-speed manual, a 6-speed DCT, and a new 5-speed AMT. Notably, it's the only hatchback in India currently available with a diesel engine. The iCNG variant is also unique, using a twin-cylinder layout instead of one large tank, preserving boot space.

Diesel and CNG versions are manual only. The 1.2L petrol engine is paired with manual, DCA, and AMT options. Prices start at ₹6.89 lakh for the base model and go up to ₹11.49 lakh for the top trim.

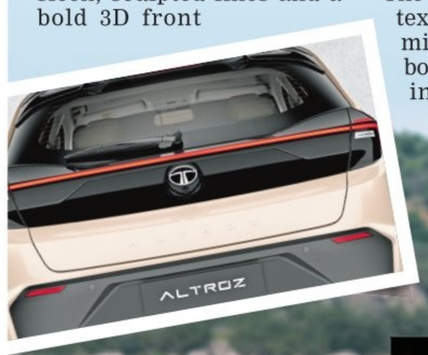
Performance

The diesel Altroz delivers ample torque, ideal for highway cruising. The 1.5L diesel engine produces 90 hp and 200 Nm of torque. The petrol version delivers 88 hp, while the iCNG variant outputs 73.5 hp. The CNG model is great for daily city commutes and handles stop-and-go traffic well.

The diesel's manual gearshift is smooth and easy to use. The engine provides enough power for long drives, although engine noise does seep into the cabin. The iCNG variant also gets loud when switching to petrol mode and revving harder. Still, buyers prioritising fuel economy will find value here. Tata claims 27.8 km/kg fuel efficiency for the iCNG variant; I achieved about 22 km/kg. Ride quality and handling are commendable, even at high speeds. The car absorbs bumps and potholes well, and steering is precise.

Safety

The Altroz was the first and remains the only hatchback in its segment with a 5-star GNCAP rating. The latest update reinforces side protection and structural integrity to meet stricter GNCAP and Bharat NCAP protocols. Safety features now include: six airbags (standard), ESP, enhanced crumple zones, hill-hold assist, LED fog lamps with cornering, Rain-sensing wipers, 360-degree camera with blind-spot monitor (on top variants).



VERDICT

The 2025 Tata Altroz checks many boxes. It shines with its powertrain options, particularly the diesel, which is now rare in the hatchback segment. Its contemporary design, premium feel, safety features, and updated tech make it a well-rounded choice.

XPRESS HIGHWAY
FORTNIGHTLY SEGMENT ON WHAT'S REVVING UP IN THE AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR

The writer is a freelance auto expert who hosts TV shows and anchors the YouTube channel 'CARKADUVA'

NEW RELEASES

TVS unveils new Apache RTR 200 4V (2025)

TVS Motor Company has unveiled the 2025 TVS Apache RTR 200 4V, now OBD2B compliant and packed with upgrades to enhance performance and comfort. The model features a new 37mm USD (upside down) front suspension for better control and agility. Producing 20.8 PS at 9,000 rpm and 17.25 Nm of torque at 7,250 rpm, it retains its high-performance legacy. Key features include dual-channel ABS, three ride modes (Urban, Sport, Rain), a slipper clutch, and adjustable clutch and brake levers. Price: Starts at ₹1,53,990 (ex-showroom Delhi).

Hyundai introduces Alcazar Corporate variant

Hyundai Motor India Ltd. has enhanced its premium SUV offering with the introduction of the ALCAZAR Corporate variant in a diesel powertrain, featuring a voice-enabled smart panoramic sunroof. Available in both 6-speed manual and automatic transmissions, it reflects Hyundai's commitment to evolving customer expectations. Additionally, a 7-speed DCT (dual clutch transmission) has been introduced in the ALCAZAR Prestige Petrol variant. Prices: Diesel Corporate starts at ₹17,86,700, and the Prestige DCT Petrol starts at ₹18,63,700

GRAND VITARA SURPASSES 3 LAKH SALES IN 32 MONTHS

Maruti Suzuki's Grand Vitara has surpassed 3 lakh unit sales in just 32 months, setting a new benchmark in the mid-size SUV segment. Known for its versatility and tech-forward appeal, the Grand Vitara offers a Strong Hybrid powertrain and Suzuki's ALLGRIP SELECT 4x4 with 6AT. With recent updates for 2025, including expanded sunroof availability, the Grand Vitara continues to resonate with the aspirations of modern Indian SUV buyers.

GRAND CHEROKEE SIGNATURE EDITION

Jeep India has launched the Grand Cherokee Signature Edition, a refined and innovative variant crafted for India's most discerning SUV enthusiasts. This exclusive edition debuts with motorised side steps, dual rear-seat entertainment, and integrated dash cams, delivering elevated luxury and added practicality. Tailored for customers who value distinction, technology, and prestige, it redefines benchmarks in the luxury SUV space. Priced at a premium of ₹1.54 lakh over the fully loaded Limited (O) variant, the Signature Edition reflects its enhanced offering.

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **(OLD NAME) AFTAB PASHA** Residing at No.59, 10th Cross, Vasanthappa Block, Near Fida Store, Ganganagar, RT Nagar Post, Bangalore-560032, have changed my Name from **(OLD NAME) AFTAB PASHA to (NEW NAME) MOHAMMED AFTAB PASHA** Vide affidavit dated 21.06.2025 sworn before Notary Leela, Bangalore.

DECLARATION

I, **VINAYKUMAR VIJAYKUMAR PARSATWAR,** AGED 41 YEARS S/O VIJAYKUMAR PARSATWAR, STATE THAT I AM ALSO CALLED AS VINAY PARSATWAR @ VINAYKUMAR PARSATWAR @ **VINAYKUMAR VIJAYKUMAR PARSATWAR,** IN FUTURE I WOULD LIKE TO RETAIN MY NAME AS **VINAYKUMAR VIJAYKUMAR PARSATWAR,** FOR ALL FUTURE CORRESPONDENCE VIDE AFFIDAVIT DATED 09/06/2025 SWORN BEFORE NOTARY AMBRESHAPPA, BANGALORE.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Sarita Yadav / Sarita Tiwari e Yadav / Sarita Tiwari Yadav, W/o. ColonelRavindranath Tiwari, residing at Prestige Falcon City, Flat No.34082, Konankunte Cross, Bengaluru 560062, have changed my name to **Sarita Tiwari** vide Affidavit Dated: 21/06/2025, sworn before Notary **GANGARAJU.B.N,** Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

We, Mr. TANKALA PRASHANTH and Mrs. INKOLLU VENKATA SATYAVANI, Both are R/at Villae 61, villa Dews Survey Number 36/1, Near GJM gl, Hancharahalli, Honachanahalli, mandur, Bangalore-560049, do hereby declare that we have changed our son's name from **SAI PRATHEEK TANKALA** to **TANKALA SAI PRATHEEK** henceforth he shall be known and called as **TANKALA SAI PRATHEEK** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 21-06-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **G. RAJENDRA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **NAVEEN KUMAR M,** R/at No. 72/1, Gunduru Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Virgonagar Post, Bengaluru-560 049 do hereby declare that I have changed my minor son's name from **SAI RAKSHAK YADAV N** to **RAKSHAK N,** henceforth he shall be known and called as **RAKSHAK N** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 20th June 2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **C SASIKALA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, BASAVARAJ NAGALAPUR S/o CHANNAPPA. Residing at #201, 1st MAIN ROAD, NEAR BSF YELAHANKA, BANGALORE-560064. have changed my name from **NAGALAPUR BASAVARAJ CHANNAPPA** to **BASAVARAJ NAGALAPUR,** vide affidavit dated 21/6/2025 sworn to before G.R Ravichandra Reddy Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **ARUN VILANGUPPAM THATHACHARY** (New Name), Aged about 40 years, S/o. Late. Vilanguppam Thathachary Ranganathan and Smt. Sowmithri Ranganathan, residing at No. 41, 1st A Main, Opp. Varun Apts., RMV 2nd Stage, Bangalore - 560094, Karnataka India, that I have changed my name from **ARUN V THATHACHARY** and **V T ARUN** (Old Name) to **ARUN VILANGUPPAM THATHACHARY** (New Name), henceforth I shall be known and called as **ARUN VILANGUPPAM THATHACHARY** (New Name) only for all purpose, vide Affidavit dated: 21/06/2025, before Notary ARAVIND PATIL G.G., Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Vijay S Jain, father of Jainith Jain residing at #67, 1st Floor, Kalamma Temple Street, Behind Devanga Hostel Mandi Mohalla Mysore, Mysuru CC, Mysuru, Mysuru, Karnataka 570 001, hereby declare that name of my son (D.O.B – 25.03.2024) as per the birth certificate bearing Registration No.803162/B/B/2024/046649 is "Jainith Jain", **I hereby further declare that I have changed my son's name from "Jainith Jain" to "Purav Jain".** vide Affidavit dated 24.04.2025 Sworn before Advocate and Notary C.R.Seetharam, Mysore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SYEDFARIDUDDIN,** Age about 36 Years, S/o. Tippusultan G T, and Residing at No. 135/3, 3rd Main 4th Cross, Byrappa Layout, Govindpur AC Post, Bangalore 560045. have changed my name to **SYED FARIDUDDIN G T** Vide affidavit dated 21-06-2025 sworn before advocate and notary R. Vishwanath, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **THUSHARA MELVEN,** W/o Mr. Jimmy Joseph, aged about 42 years, DOB: 11-04-1983 and resident of No.20, Confident Hercules, Chikkabellandur, Carmelaram Post Bangalore - 560035, have changed my name to **THUSHARA MELVIN** vide Affidavit dated 21-06-2025 sworn before advocate and notary B M Chandrashekar, Bangalore

AFFIDAVIT

I, **GUDIVADA SURYAAPPAYYAMMA,** aged about 66 years, is the mother of Service No. JC 314358H Rank: SUB, Name: VENKATA APPARAO GUDIVADA. Unit: HQ MEG & CENTRE, resident of House: No. 6-21, 6 Ward, Bheemunipatnam Mandalm, Rekhavani Palem, Rayapalem, Visakhapathnam, Andhra Pradesh 531163. have changed my name from **GUDIVADA SURIAPPAMMA** to **GUDIVADA SURYAAPPAYYAMMA,** and my correct date of birth is 01/01/1959 but it mentioned as 01/07/1963 in my son service documents. I solemnly affirm and declare that both the names and DOB are indicating and referring myself as a same and one identical person, not different person whatsoever. Vide affidavit dated: 21-06-2025 sworn before advocate and notary N. Thulasi, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Nishita Deepak Tanna, resident of Godrej United Panorama A1603, Hoodi Village, Opposite Brigade Metropolis, Mahadevapura, Bangalore – 560048 have changed my name to NISHITA TANNA for all future purposes. Affidavit dated 20-06-2025 sworn before advocate and notary B M Chandrashekar, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SMT. MOTIRAJA DEVI,** Mother of **MWO KAMLESH PRATAP SINGH,** resident of SMQ 321/12, HQ Training Command, IAF, Hebbal, J C Nagar Post, Bengaluru- 560006, Karnataka, have changed my Name from SMT. **MOTIRAJA DEVI** to **MOTIRAJ** vide Affidavit dated 21-06-2025 before Notary **R BASAVARAJA,** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **ARCHANA** W/o Muralikrishna, D/o Matad Chandrashekar, aged about 40 years, and previously called as ARCHANA SHEKAR M, Residing at No.36 Sumukha Arcade 2nd floor, 8th main road, Nanda kumar Layout, Chikkalsandara, Bangalore -560061, Karnataka,

I have changed my name from **"ARCHANA SHEKAR M"** to **"ARCHANA"** Vide Affidavit dated **21/06/2025,** Sworn to before Notary Neha Baddi, at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, LALITHA, legally wedded spouse of 13865423H, Ex Nk(TS) late K KUPPUSWMY, residing at #27/4 A Block, G R Srinivas Apartment, Subhas Nagar, Bommanahalli, Bengaluru 560068, have changed my name from Lalitha to **K Lalitha** vide Affidavit Dated: 21/06/2025 Sworn before Notary **M.NARENDRAN,** Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **RAMAMURTHY B,** R/at Flat No. 301, 3rdd Floor, Elegant Petals, 5th B Cross, OMBR Layout, Banaswadi, Kalyanagara, Bangalore-560 043 do hereby declare that I have changed my daughter's name from **PRISHA RAM** to **PRISHA RAAM,** henceforth she shall be known and called as **PRISHA RAAM** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 20th June 2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **C SASIKALA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **D E E P T I . V,** D/o D N Venkatachalapathi, aged about 34 years, R/at No.59, 3rd Main, 2nd Cross, Ramaiah layout, Kacharkanahalli, St Thomas Town, Bangalore-560084 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **DEEPTI .D V** to **DEEPTI .V** henceforth I shall be known and called as **DEEPTI .V** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 20-06-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **VYSHALI .K** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **DIVYASHREE.D.N** W/o Ravikumar.H, R/at # 439, Varadanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk. Bangalore Rural District- 561203, do hereby declare that, My name is mentioned as DIVYASHREE. D. N in my Aadhar card and PAN card. My name appears as DIVYASHREE in Marks Statement cum Certificate of CBSE-2024, of my Son VISHAL GOWDA.R. Hence I state & declare that, the said **DIVYASHREE.D.N** and **DIVYASHREE** refers to one and the same person. Vide affidavit Dated : 21-06-2025 Sworn before the notary M.Radhamma at Doddaballapur

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SUPRIYA VILANGUPPAM THATHACHARY** (New Name), Aged about 34 years, D/o. Late. Vilanguppam Thathachary Ranganathan and Smt. Sowmithri Ranganathan, residing at No. 41, 1st A Main, Opp. Varun Apts., RMV 2nd Stage, Bangalore - 560094, Karnataka India, that I have changed my name from **V T SUPRIYA** (Old Name) to **SUPRIYA VILANGUPPAM THATHACHARY** (New Name), henceforth I shall be known and called as **SUPRIYA VILANGUPPAM THATHACHARY** (New Name) only for all purpose, vide Affidavit dated : 21/06/2025, before Notary ARAVIND PATIL G.G., Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MOHAMMED SALEEM, Residing at No.1606/7, 3rd G Main Road, Nagamma Layout, K.B.Sandra, R.T.Nagar Post, Bengaluru-32 Presently residing at State of Qatar I.D.No.29535614026, have changed my minor Son's Name from **MOHAMMED SHAZAN to MOHAMMED SHAHZAN** Vide affidavit dated 21.06.2025 sworn before Notary C.V.Earappa, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SHREE RIPUDAMAN SINGH,** Father of **MWO KAMLESH PRATAP SINGH,** resident of SMQ 321/12, HQ Training Command, IAF, Hebbal, J C Nagar Post, Bengaluru- 560006, Karnataka, have changed my Name from **SHREE RIPUDAMAN SINGH** to **RIPUDAMAN SINGH** vide Affidavit dated 21-06-2025 before Notary **R BASAVARAJA,** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, V Reethik, Son of No. 13689071L Ex-Hav late Vasudevan A, aged 23 years, presently residing at # 18/A, F Block,Championreefs, Post- KGF and Tehsil-Bangarpet, Dist- Kolar, Karnataka-563117, have changed my name from **V Reethik to Rithick** V vide Affidavit dated 21/06/2025 Sworn before **Gangaraju.B.N,** Advocate & Notary, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SAYEED AHMED O.P, aged about 46 years, S/o Late O.P. Abdul Raheem, residing at No. 254, 1st Main, 4th Cross, Vinobha Nagar, Opp. Madina Masjid, K.G. Halli, Bangalore - 560045, declare that **SAYEED AHMED O.P.** and **O.P. SAYEED AHMED** is the one the same person that is myself. That the initials O.P. is my surname refers to Ojindaram Periyaveedu, accordingly my full name is **Sayeed Ahmed Ojindaram Periyaveedu.** The same is confirmed by me in an affidavit dated 21-06-2025 before Notary Public / Advocate **Sri. L. Gopalakrishna,** Bengaluru for all purposes wherever it is warranted.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **RAGHAVENDRA .S,** S/o Sivaramappa, aged about 40 years, R/at No.139, 1st Floor, Sri lakshmi Adinarayana Swamy Nilaya, Silicion Sun City Heelalige, Chandapura, Bangalore-560099, do hereby declare that both the names i.e. **MAHATHI LAHARI to RAJATHA GOWRI** are one and the same and refers to me only, vide affidavit dated 20-06-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **PUTTARAMAIAH** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MALATHI NAGENDRA DIXIT, W/o. Nagendra Dixit K.G, residing at No.28, 5th Main Road, Venkatappa Layout, Sanjay Nagar, Bengaluru North, RMV Extension, 2nd Stage, Bengaluru -560094, have changed my name from **MALATHI NAGENDRA DIXIT DIXIT** to **MALATHI NAGENDRA DIXIT,** vide affidavit dated 21/6/2025 sworn to before M.Rajendra Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **NAGARAJU .G,** S/o. Gopala, aged about 30 years, currently residing at # 6, 7th Cross, Near Kamakya Theatre, Kamakya Layout, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bengaluru-560085, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **NAGARAJU .G** to **NAMARATHA .G,** vide affidavit dated 21.06.2025, sworn to before Ramachandrappa .C, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I,**CATHERINE ASHA LATHA VICENT PAUL** D/o Late Lourd Swamy, aged about 59 years, residing at No.790/2, 8th Main, Maruthi Layout, Hennur Cross, Bengaluru - 560043, have changed my name from **CATHERINE ASHA LATHA VICENT PAUL** to **CATHERINE ASHA LATHA,** vide affidavit dated 21/6/2025 sworn to before B.Chitra Advocate and Notary Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MOHAMMED ISMAIL KHALEEL,** aged about 54 years, S/o. Pyare Jan, Residing at No. 12/1, 1st Floor, 2nd Cross, KHB Colony Main Road, New Kaval Byrasandra Extension, Bengaluru North, R Nagar, Bengaluru-560032, have changed my name from **MOHAMMED ISMAIL KHALEEL** to **ISMAIL KHALEEL,** vide affidavit dated 16-06-2025 sworn before notary H.G PADMANABHA RAO, Reg. No. 12464, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SANTOSH KUMAR R** (Old Name) S/o **H Ramaiah,** aged about 44 years resident of No-22, Chikkasanne Village, Doddasanne Post, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural-562110, have changed my name to **SANTHOSH KUMAR R** (New Name) vide affidavit dated: 19/6/2025 Before Notary **A. NARAYANASWAMY** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Florence Swarna Latha, Widow Daughter of No. 1317982Ex-Sapper late D S John presently residing at CSITA BethanyAshram, Post Office Road, Channapatna Town, Ramanagara District, Karnataka 562 160 have changed my name from **Florence Swarna Latha** to **Florance Swarna Latha** vide Affidavit dated 19/06/2025sworn before **A R Nagendra,** Advocate & Notary, Channapatna, Ramanagara Dist

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ARSH SHAKEEL SOFI, S/o Shakeel Ahmed Sofi, aged about 18 years, R/at No.13, 1st B Cross, RMV 2nd Stage, Bhoopasandra, Sanjaynagar, Bangalore-560094. do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **ARSH SHAKEEL SOFI** to **ARSH SHAKEEL** henceforth I shall be known and called as **ARSH SHAKEEL** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 21-06-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **JALANDHARA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SONA BAAI, W/o Mahendarnath singh, aged about 50 years, R/at No.62/A, 13th Cross, Mahalakshmi layout, Bangalore-560086 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **MAHENDAR SINGH** to **SONA BAAI** henceforth I shall be known and called as **SONA BAAI** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 21-06-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **K.V. BACHI REDDY** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, VASANTHA SUBRAMANYAN (Date of Birth : 14/08/1950) Wife of K.T.Raghunathan, residing at No. 628 Ground Floor, 62nd Cross, Near Lakshman Rao Clinic, 5th Block, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru - 560010, have changed my name from **VASANTHA RAGHUNATHAN** to **VASANTHA SUBRAMANYAN,** vide affidavit dated 21/6/2025 sworn to before V.Rajashekhara Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Sri. GANGARAJU .C,** S/o. Sri. Channigappa .H, Aged about 40 years, R/at No. 35, Thimmappana Palya, 'D' Group Layout, Bangalore North, Viswaneedam Post, Bangalore - 560 091, do hereby declare that I have changed my son's name from **YAKSHIT RAJ** to **YAKSHITH G GOWDA** vide affidavit dated 6.6.2025 sworn to before K. Gunde Gowda, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **(OLD NAME), TAMJEED NAZIMMUDDIN** S/o Mr. N SALEEM PASHA, Age About 53 years, Residing at No: 29, Syed Manzil near Sunshine Public School, R R Layout, Medarahalli Shettihalli, Bangalore - 560090 Have changed my Name from **(OLD NAME) TAMJEED NAZIMMUDDIN** to **(NEW NAME) TAMJEED AHMED** Vide affidavit Dated 21/06/2025 sworn before Notary "R Vishwanath B.com BA", Bangalore.

SMART ADS

NANDINI TOURIST
RAMESHSHWARAM
trip 2+2 by Bus 5 days
from 2-7-2025
PURI JAGANATH
trip by Flight 3 days
from 11-7-2025
SHIRDI, 3 JYOTRILINGA
trip by Flight 3 days
from 30-7-2025
9916574089

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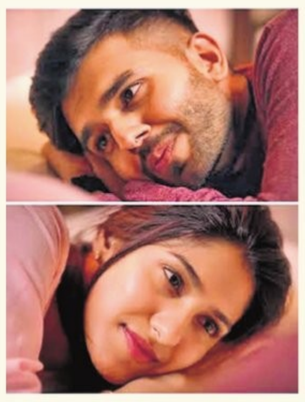
A patchwork of love, dreams, and destiny



A SHARADHAA

MAATONDA Heluve opens not with a scene, but with a song, the spirited rhythm of "Geeya Geeya" instantly drops us into the heart of Uttara Karnataka. It's lively, local, and textured — a land of dialects, dusty roads, and open skies. At its centre is Mayur (Mayur Kadi), an engineering graduate-turned-radio jockey, who speaks not just into the mic, but into the soul of his region.

The film doesn't rush. It walks. Like the slow, winding streets of Dharwad, the story unfolds at its own pace. Mayur's journey is quiet but clear — he begins as someone chasing a job, not a dream. But deep inside, he's always wanted to speak, to tell stories, to make people feel something through words. The radio gives him that chance. His dialect isn't polished — it's rooted. His stories are full of warmth, especially the "patch-up" tales of love and heartbreak that echo real small-town romances.

But then, the microphone turns inward. On a trip for his radio show, Mayur meets Khushi (Apoorva Aradhya), a girl searching for an address — and maybe, herself. Their meeting is simple. No music swells. No sudden sparks. Just conversation. About love. About marriage. About whether people truly know each other before they promise forever. Their talk feels real. Thoughtful.

Khushi isn't just passing through. She's exploring: the place, her path. And in those quiet walks and talks, something begins to grow. It's not a fiery romance. It's slow.

The film feels like it's building towards something deep. Until suddenly, it changes. Khushi disappears, and the tone shifts. What began as a grounded, emotional journey turns into a dramatic hunt for closure. The writing starts to reach for big emotions it hasn't earned. Monologues arrive. Plot twists feel too convenient.

But it never loses its setting. From the earthy red roads of North Karnataka to its food, accents, and festivals, the camera captures it all with honesty. Even when the script stumbles, the place holds strong.

The first half is its strength. The humour flows easily, but in the second half, the story loses its steady footing. It leans on familiar tropes instead of letting the characters grow naturally.

Mayur Kadi is the soul of *Maatonda Heluve* in addition to being the writer, director, and the lead. Being an RJ himself, he handles those portions with natural ease. He has ample space to express himself on screen, but there is room for improvisation and growth in all aspects of his performance, both in front and behind the camera. Especially when the subject turns more emotional, he sometimes loses his technique.

Mayur begins stiff, especially in emotional scenes, Apoorva is given more to carry, and she does so with grace. Neither overacts. Even in emotional moments, they hold back, which makes it all the more real.

Maatonda Heluve is a small film with a big heart. It tries to be honest. It could've been more — a tender look at love, place, and self. Instead, it settles halfway. But for those who listen closely, there's warmth, wit, and a rare, rooted voice worth hearing.

Like the radio stories Mayur tells — full of patch-ups and pauses — this film too feels like a patchwork. Some pieces shine, others feel stitched in. But together, they still carry the scent of real soil and real hearts. In the end, the film doesn't land with a bang, but with a quiet realisation — still searching, still unfolding, still trying to find its form.

MAATONDA HELUVE
Director: Mayur Kadi
Cast: Mayur Kadi, Apoorva Aradhya, Girish Shivanna, and PD Sathish
RATING 2.5/5

I WANT TO CELEBRATE GREAT TALENTS LIKE SHIVANNA AND DHANANJAYA: HEMANTH M RAO

The filmmaker discusses his next *666 Operation Dream Theatre*, produced by Vaishak J Gowda, his passion for retro-era cinema, and the inspiration behind bringing the espionage world to life

A SHARADHAA

AFTER winning hearts with *Godhi Banna Sadharana Mykattu*, *Kavaludaari*, and the *Sapta Sagaradaache Ello* films, director Hemanth M Rao is back with his next venture: *666 Operation Dream Theatre*. The film, produced by Dr Vaishak J Gowda under the Vaishak J Films banner, brings a stylised 70s-inspired espionage world to life and marks a nostalgic but fresh turn in Hemanth's filmography.

The film is set to reunite the hit *Tagaru* duo, Shivarajkumar and Dhananjaya, and it taps into the charm of vintage thrillers with a modern touch. "I grew up watching *James Bond, Jedara Bale*, and *Operation Diamond Rocket*. This film isn't inspired by them, but they shaped my love for cinema," says Hemanth. "I wanted to make something that carries that energy and entertainment, the kind I saw as a child."

As for the title, he adds, "999 is Annavaru Dr. Rajkumar's iconic number (*Goa Dalli CID 999*). We wouldn't touch that. As for the number we are trying to look at it from our own perspective, and add our own spin to it."

While Hemanth's previous films leaned into emotional depth and strong characters, this marks his first project with a mass theme. Is this a shift in style? "People think 'mass' means formula, but for me, commercial cinema is anything that connects, succeeds, and makes money. That way *Godhi Banna... Kavaludaari* and *Sapta Sagaradaache Ello* were commercial hits," he says.

Sharing his excitement of working with Shivanna and Dhananjaya, Hemanth says they're fantastic actors. "Beyond 'mass appeal' it is more about celebrating great talent."

Meanwhile, Bhairavana Kone Pata, his earlier announced project with Shivarajkumar, has been put on hold. "Shivanna had to recover fully before we took it on Bhairavana Konne Paata, and he didn't want to compromise. But working with him on *666 Operation Dream Theatre* feels equally special," Hemanth shares, adding, "And Dhananjaya—what a journey. I've followed his work from the beginning. He's self-made, thoughtful, and has made a name even beyond Karnataka. As a Kannadiga, we should be proud of that. Getting to work with him is a big asset for me," he says.

The film will initially be shot in Kannada and Telugu, with scope to expand. "We're exploring both markets, but ultimately, the film chooses its own path. I just want to tell a clear story, the way I see it," says Hemanth, who has roped in Charan Raj as music director and Advaitha Gurumurthy as the cinematographer, while production design is managed by Vishwas Kashyap. The team plans to begin shooting in July.

> *I grew up watching James Bond, Jedara Bale, and Operation Diamond Rocket. This film isn't inspired by them, but they shaped my love for cinema. I wanted to make something that carries that energy and entertainment, the kind I saw as a child*
> - Hemanth M Rao, director

VIBIN S SANTOSH'S *OMEN* USES THE FOUND FOOTAGE FORMAT

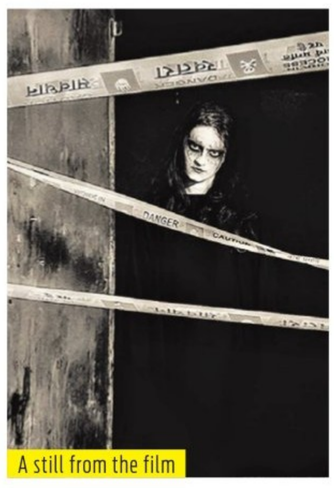
CE FEATURES

OMEN, as a title, stirs a sense of eerie intrigue, and that's no coincidence. This upcoming film yet again explores the horror genre with a bold choice: the found footage format, a style that is slowly picking up in Kannada cinema.

Helmed by Vibin S Santosh, who has written, directed, and edited the film, *Omen* centres around a haunted house where a paranormal investigation takes a terrifying turn. The story unfolds as if the audience is sifting through raw, real recordings, intensifying the fear and suspense.

The protagonist, played by Ajay Kumar, is a YouTuber who sets out to explore the mysteries surrounding the house, while Neeshma Shetty stars as a paranormal researcher determined to uncover the truth. The film invites viewers to step into their shoes, witnessing unexplained events through shaky cams, night vision, and the audio captures—techniques that blur the line between fiction and reality. *Omen* is produced by Ajay Kumar and V Mirunalini's Maravanji Productions and Sri Angalaparameshwari Movie Makers.

Team Omen

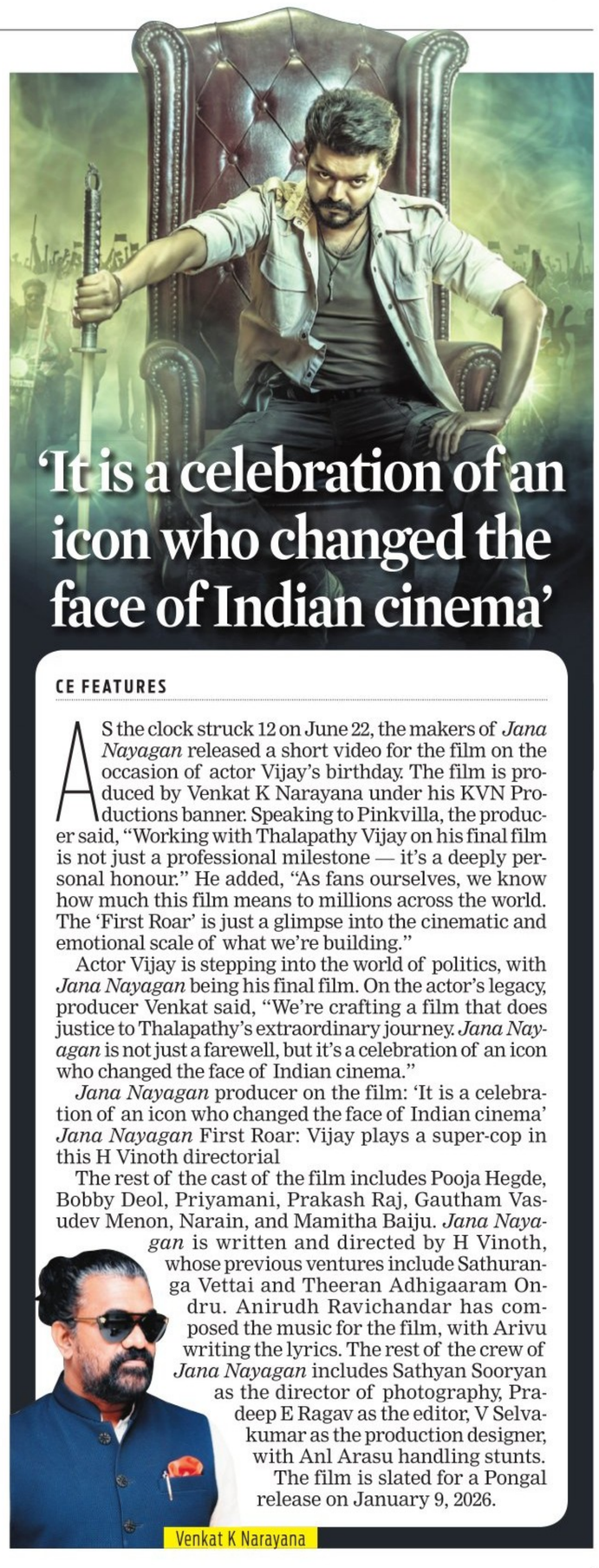


A still from the film

The cast also features Maitri Jaggi, Keerthana Pulki, Raghu Kalavida, and Akash Kulkarni, all of whom portray characters caught in the vortex of the house's haunted history.

The technical team includes music composers Bhuvan Shankar and Sanskaar, and SFX artist Ansho S Simon.

The film, having completed its censor formalities, is expected to hit theatres this July.



'It is a celebration of an icon who changed the face of Indian cinema'

CE FEATURES

AS the clock struck 12 on June 22, the makers of *Jana Nayagan* released a short video for the film on the occasion of actor Vijay's birthday. The film is produced by Venkat K Narayana under his KVN Productions banner. Speaking to Pinkvilla, the producer said, "Working with Thalapathy Vijay on his final film is not just a professional milestone — it's a deeply personal honour." He added, "As fans ourselves, we know how much this film means to millions across the world. The 'First Roar' is just a glimpse into the cinematic and emotional scale of what we're building."

Actor Vijay is stepping into the world of politics, with *Jana Nayagan* being his final film. On the actor's legacy, producer Venkat said, "We're crafting a film that does justice to Thalapathy's extraordinary journey. *Jana Nayagan* is not just a farewell, but it's a celebration of an icon who changed the face of Indian cinema."

Jana Nayagan producer on the film: 'It is a celebration of an icon who changed the face of Indian cinema' *Jana Nayagan* First Roar: Vijay plays a super-cop in this H Vinoth directorial

The rest of the cast of the film includes Pooja Hegde, Bobby Deol, Priyamani, Prakash Raj, Gautham Vasudev Menon, Narain, and Mamitha Baiju. *Jana Nayagan* is written and directed by H Vinoth, whose previous ventures include Sathuranga Vettai and Theeran Adhigaaram Ondru. Anirudh Ravichandar has composed the music for the film, with Arivu writing the lyrics. The rest of the crew of *Jana Nayagan* includes Sathyan Sooryan as the director of photography, Pradeep E Ragav as the editor, V Selvakumar as the production designer, with Anl Arasu handling stunts.

The film is slated for a Pongal release on January 9, 2026.

Venkat K Narayana

Avanirabekittu is a piece of my life: Ashok Samrat

The director speaks about his upcoming romantic suspense thriller, which explores the emotional toll of identity theft, ahead of its release this week

CE FEATURES

DIRECTOR Ashok Samrat steps into the spotlight with his debut feature film Avanirabekittu, a romantic suspense thriller exploring the emotional toll of identity theft. The film is set to release across Karnataka on June 27. "I didn't just write this story—I lived it," says Ashok Samrat, explaining the personal experiences that shaped the film. "There was a time when I struggled to prove who I was. That haunting feeling of being invisible, of not being acknowledged—that's what I've tried to weave into this film."

Having worked as an assistant director in serials and short films, and under established names, Ashok now steps into making a full-fledged feature film. Backed by producer Murali BT under the Novika Cine Production banner, the film is said to follow a layered narrative that blends psychological suspense with a romantic thread. "It's not a straight-line thriller. There are surprises at every turn. There's love, there's deception, and above all, there's a search for self," Ashok adds.

A still from the film

The film stars newcomers Bharath and Sowmya John, whose chemistry in the trailer has already generated online buzz. "They're new, yes—but they performed like pros," Ashok adds with pride. Music plays a central role in the narrative. Composer Loki Tavasya, a disciple of Hamsalekha, is the composer.

The film has cinematography by Devaraj Poojari, and the cast includes veterans Lakshmi Devamma, Prashanth Siddi, and Kiran Nayak. Interestingly, *Avanirabekittu* caught the eye of Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar, who praised the trailer and the team's passion, and has KRG Studios distributing the film statewide this week. Ashok concludes, "This story is a piece of my life, and I hope people see themselves in it—and feel seen."